THE VALLEY OF THE KEDRON

MARY GRACE CANFIELD

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THE VALLEY OF THE KEDRON

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MARY GRACE CANFIELD

The Valley of the Kedron

THE STORY OF THE SOUTH PARISH, WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

Drawings by Muriel A. Thomas

PUBLISHED BY KEDRON ASSOCIATES

SOUTH WOODSTOCK, VT.

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Woodstock - $15.00

Foreword

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Years ago I rode down into the Valley of the Kedron, through high hills, with great thunder-clouds rearing over the mountain pastures. Babs was with me on her white pony, and the collie paced beside us; we had ridden up from Cape Cod, looking at farms, but all the time we knew we were heading for Woodstock. Friends had told us about it, though they had never mentioned "South Village"; we did not know it existed. In a week it was to become our home.

The thunderheads were purple now, and lined with silver. We stopped and stared. What a valley! What a view! Down we rode, passing farms with their red barns, then turning into the little village of South Woodstock. A stream babbled, coming in from meadows and running beside the houses, the sun suddenly went under a cloud, and everything darkened; but ahead of us was an old, arching stone bridge—and the Kedron Tavern! welcome sight. Its whitewashed barn, with a row of brilliant nasturtiums climbing up its front, sat across a plot of grass; we bolted in at the barn door just as the rain came down in torrents.

The host ran to greet us, there were stalls for weary beasts; for a whole week we stayed at the Tavern and never

in Woodstock at all. The Valley was too lovely. And a mile back in the hills we found our farm.

It was perfect riding-country; a sweet country to live in. One never tired of it. The hills are the homelike sort. There are clear brooks and wild, woodland or upland roads—with traces of lilacs and maples, of old stone walls, marking the site of early habitations. The earth of the back roads is brown and rich and looks as if one should grow radishes in it. Never were such sweet peas as we raised in our garden that summer; we ate meals on the terrace, listened to birds, watched the stars and the moonrise, for there was hardly a mosquito. On a rare, breathless afternoon we sometimes brought one or two up the hill with us, on our horses' stomachs! but we were very indignant when that happened.

The wooded hills curved down to the valley. Even doing an errand in our village was a pleasure. We followed the bend of our little brook; it soon joined a larger one and took us down with it, via views of meadow, spire, and roof, to the bowered red-and-white of the village. We left the stone bridge and rode on—past the Grange Hall, the white-trimmed houses with their small gardens, to the village store. There the mail would be awaiting us; or, if one were merely riding, different roads branched from the ends of the village street.

Alluring roads! high up over the hills, with views quite as glorious as the one of the Valley we had first fallen in love with: friendly little farms, endless variety of roadside and roadside flowers, of woodland with moss and ferns; of far, far prospect with blue hills rimming it—often with Ascutney lifting its great purple bump intimately before

you. (Ascutney is our nearest mountain.) From some of the hilltops, from our favorite ridge road, we saw the Killington range. Our own pasture-top gave us White Mountains, pale blue in the east, Killington and Pico under the sunset.

We often rode there, camping on the way—at any season, even in nippy autumn, a glorious trip; as Babs wrote, in her poem "Riding Home at Dark"—

> Warmed by leaping flame,
> Cooled by dim, dark valleys—
> A fiery planet over dark trees,
> The smell of frozen flowers—
> Ah, my hills!
> Never the same, never forgot.

A grand life for a child. Babs grew up sturdy and strong, training ponies in summer, riding in winter on the packed snow—for winter, in our Valley, is beautiful beyond belief. A lone elm in a snowy field, tinted with sunset, ice-storms glittering under the moon; rosy dawn on the snowy pastures—the convenient winter dawn that you're up in time to see.

Autumns are splendid, anywhere in Vermont; to us there was nothing lovelier than the way our own trees turned, or the melody of the Village under its shower of gold and scarlet. It was always different; and in spring the shadbloom was white upon the hills, beside the purple of birch-twigs, the red, the pinkish-rose and yellow of the maple-blossoms. A surprising lot of color; and when the bloodroot came, in woods and pastures!

Little cups of white,
Prodding your way
Out of the brown, snow-flattened grass,
I blessed you,
For you gave hope
Of the melting of the snows.

To make you possible
The brooks roared,
And the hills turned blue,
The wood-tops pink and thick,
The hot sun shone,
And I rode about with joy in my heart,
On that April day.

Presently the last drift went from cold, shady spots on the hillsides, and the miracle, the pageant of tiny leaf began; the great rushing of the brooks. As we listened to it one evening, Babs called it "The Spring Break-Up at Night":

It is all so big,
No words of mine
Can catch its tender tranquillity. . . .

her poem begins.

It seemed as if it couldn't be as lovely anywhere else; as we often said, returning from a riding-trip, "Isn't it *nice* to come back and find that it's just as lovely at home?"

It was. And that was one of the reasons why we loved South Woodstock. Not only for what it has patiently done, in past days, but for what it inherently, livably is—in hillside and valley. It deserves to have its History written: I am thrilled, for instance, to find (what I never knew before) that our farmhouse was built in 1783! Mrs. Canfield

has spent much time and research on this History, going over every one of the town Records, and giving us, therefore, an account that is not only graphic and readable, but accurate. We are most grateful to have it.

ANNE BOSWORTH GREENE

April 18, 1940.

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CHAPTER I

Some Reasons for This Book

Two histories of the town of Woodstock published in the 1880's have been written by the late Swan Dana. Only a few copies of the first one were printed but that is the one which contains the most valuable information about the South Parish. It is large and unwieldy in size but important historically. When the decision was reached that several family trees of the North Parish people should be included in the book, many an important item of the South Parish was omitted. Had there been two volumes printed instead of one, all of these facts could have been preserved. I have read with care two books of that first edition which have written on many margins the word "Omit," and most of this omitting, in the second printing, affected our South Parish and its history.

It is the prime purpose of this book to preserve as far as possible the names of the early settlers, to show their ways of life and to make the region really live. Old diaries, scrapbooks, family records, reports of the town meetings beginning with 1772, records of deeds from 1779, road surveys from the same time, old account books, some of them beginning with June 1792, newspaper files, documents saved by careful families, all these have been grist

to my mill. I have interviewed every available person in the community whose ancestors settled in the South Parish and have written dozens of letters to descendants far away. For many months the search has gone on and I know only too well that the result is not complete and while again and again I have tried to verify names and dates, I make no claim for perfection. This job of digging into the past is not easy. Many people know only the names of fathers and mothers and their grandparents and not always do they know from whence they came.

In addition to the reading of all the town records mentioned and the old newspapers, I have read Hiland Hall's "History of Vermont," B. H. Hall's "The History of Eastern Vermont," Slade's "State Papers," Wardner's "The Birth Place of Vermont," Thompson's old "Gazetteers," the three volume "History of Vermont" by the late Professor Walter Crocket of the University of Vermont, Child's "Gazetteer of Windsor County," the "Windsor County History," the records of the Academy, of the Universalist Chapel, minutes of the various organizations which once flourished in the South Parish, and have also read multitudes of articles which careful people have preserved. I found the reading of the old town records a difficult task, being often compelled to use a magnifying glass. I have tramped abandoned roads to find the cellar holes of the homes of pioneers, for I want to have a clear understanding of their habitations. The many graveyards in the South Parish have yielded their information for I have read the names on all the stones. For one year I have given my waking hours to research and writing and have dreamed of it all, many a night. I have been so utterly absorbed in it, that the reading of the

daily papers and the books I like to read have been utterly pushed aside. The South Parish and its history have been with me all the time. I have gathered much information which cannot be used in this book. Many note books fairly bulge with facts which are full of interest.

The pen-and-ink drawings by Miss Muriel Thomas of England, which appear, showing some of the fine architectural constructions of the buildings, add greatly to the value of the book. The photographic reproductions of a few men and women are also of value, as are the maps.

The men of the South Parish helped to organize this town, they held all sorts of offices from Moderator to State Senator. They helped to organize the school system, they built churches, they had their literary organizations and their library. They sent many boys to college. The records of graveyards and tomb societies are unique and revealing. The sturdy group of men protesting worn-out creeds a hundred and twenty-five years ago, is significant that they were thinking. The building of the Liberal Institute is a tale of heroism and devotion to fine ideals.

When we came to Woodstock in August 1902 my husband preached once in two weeks in the Universalist Chapel in the South Parish and at the same time preached every Sunday in the North Chapel. This he continued to do for nearly fourteen years. The audience then South was made up largely of men and women who had been students of the Institute. They had vivid memories of the teachers and students and they showed in their thinking and conversation the intellectual stimulus under which they had been brought up. They were keen listeners of the minister's messages, they liked to talk over the ser-

mons. All this attentiveness on their part had a stimulating and inspiring effect on their pastor.

In quotations from the old records I have kept the capital letters, observed their lack of punctuation, and followed the spelling which is not like ours of today. I have not always used quotation marks when quoting, trusting the intelligence of the reader to be discriminating and understanding. So when words are misspelled, well, that is the way they were spelt by the early fathers and when capitals dance all over the page, again remember the fathers and their ways which are not our ways. This book is their history and its purpose is to reveal them. The hope is deep in my heart that they may become much alive to all who read. All these months of research have made them real persons to me. Were I to meet them I think I should know them.

To their descendants who still bear some of their names, I am deeply indebted for generous help; the Woods, the Kendalls, the Thomases, the Hoadleys, the Kingsleys, the Ralphs, the Jaquiths, the Fletchers, the Fullertons, the Farnsworths by other names, the Slaytons, the Ransoms, the Cowdrys.

I also owe much to later arrivals, people who have bought the old farms with their stone walls, who have restored the decaying houses, who love the land with their rocks and trees and who wish to preserve the traditions of pioneer endeavor and to keep alive for generations yet to be, the love of freedom, the open mind and the sturdy independence of those who created this State. My father frequently used a word not in the dictionaries. I suspect he got it from his Scotch forbears, it was "Independlum."

Kedron River Bend—in Village

He held it before us as a guide to independent thinking and courage of conviction. There was something of the granite hills in that word and if the pioneers here in Vermont and elsewhere over this broad land knew not that specific word, they certainly lived under the spell of its significance. All honor to them.

CHAPTER II

It Did Not Happen

When one begins to gather historical data concerning a neighborhood, its people and its physical aspects, it is quite amazing the amount of information which is passed on as history. Tradition becomes a fact and one is expected to receive that dressed-up tradition as absolute truth, though there are plenty of evidences that the statements lack historical accuracy.

In collecting the material for this book, "The Kedron Valley and South Woodstock," the statement has been made definitely many times that the South part of the town was settled first. James Sanderson who brought the beginnings of his family here in 1769 and erected a shack on the north face of Blake Hill, and after various wanderings in and out of the town, finally settled down on Dunham Hill in 1784, is called our first real settler. His location was north of the South Parish and not in it. He probably built the house which still stands and which was painted red for many years and is now white. Here he died in 1794. His picturesque son, Benjamin, lived out his years in this house and a grand-daughter, Mrs. John Carey, and her family also occupied it. They belonged to the Kedron Valley Section.

Those of us who watch the cavorting of the Kedron Brook when the waters are high, know that the bed through which it flows at the base of the last range of hills in this valley, was not the original bed in all of that particular section. Going from the Green towards South Woodstock, at the point where the first hill road turns off to the left, the present channel by the foothills for the length of Mr. Fay's meadow northward and the southern part of the meadow now used for the Golf Course, was dug in 1818 under the direction of Job Lyman for the purpose of redeeming this land which was swampy in the extreme.

The old bed is plainly seen at all seasons, except when under snow, on the meadow owned by Mr. Fay. It winds and twists across that field and comes close to the present highway near the boundary line between his property and the Golf Course. A little distance north of that line, the old bed turned rather sharply east, then a little north, and sought the foot of the hills. This section once showed very plainly but the extreme levelling for the Golf Course has removed nearly all traces, but on Mr. Fay's meadow the old bed is plainly seen and in times of high water it always is full. There are men living in Woodstock who recall that when they were boys, they fished in the old bed from the big rock which is in that meadow. Fifty years ago, the bed was deeper and both water and fish were there all the time. Twenty-five years ago high waters broke through the bank by the hill road and great cakes of ice and much debris followed the old channel. Mr. Otis Waite who then owned this property, had a tremendous task clearing the land.

The tale is told that in early days the South Road passed

on the west side of the house now owned by Mr. George Aycrigg. It had to do so because the brook came close to the house on the east side. The brook never went that far north. I have told where it turned off to the east. The old surveys of that road indicate many changes all the way from the Green to the South Village. I have read many of them. The exact bed for the road over that early swamp without doubt varied but let us look a few facts in the face. This stone house was built in 1857; a brick house was torn down to make a place for the stone one. A small frame house had preceded the brick one. Several surveys had been made across this swamp and some sort of road followed practically the present course. In the chapter on roads and their surveys some more things will be told about this road. Possibly in the 1770's and 80's a sort of trail clung to the west hills. Such a trail was on the east range of hills.

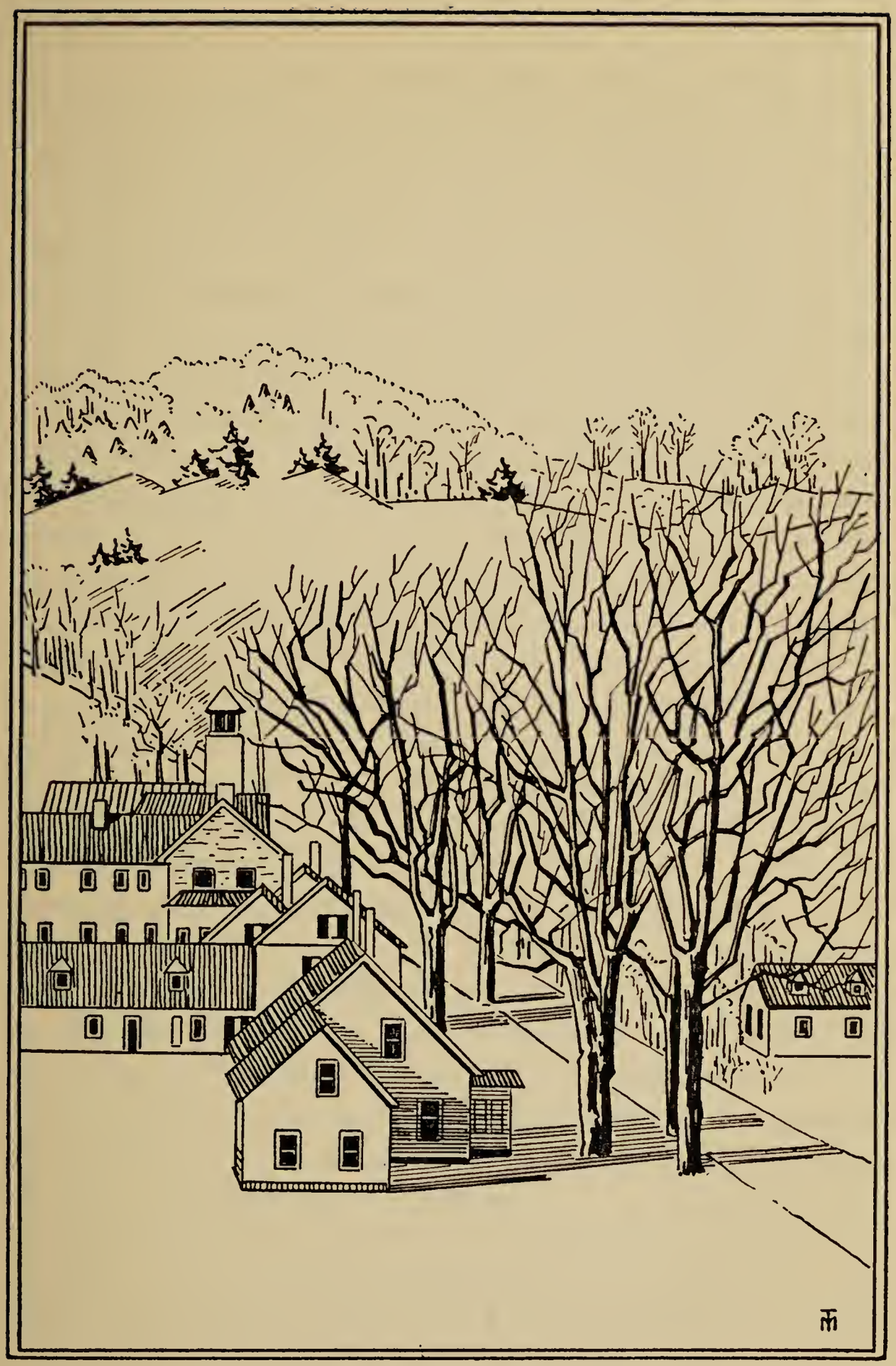
While we are writing about the South branch, let us follow it to the Quechee River. It never flowed over the Common. Its course through the present village is practically what it was in early times. The record of mills on its banks indicate that decidedly. It had a larger volume of water and there were frequent floods in those far off days. Where the stone houses stand, the land was often under water as was the land south of it. At Pleasant Street the brook turned northwest and made a bend to the east in what is now Mrs. William Jones' back yard. Back of the former Mackenzie Green houses was a very high bank, on which was located Woodstock's first graveyard. The brook entered the river just below this bank. The great

flood of 1811 undermined the bank and nearly wrecked the graveyard. Dr. Stephen Powers had a little child buried there; grave and stone were washed away. Months after the stone was recovered and was set up in the Cushing graveyard. Where the brook made that curve near Mrs. Jones' before the flood, there stood a mill. The flood destroyed it and changed the course of the brook to its present bed. Even today there is an underground drain through a portion of this old brook bed to care for the water which persists in going that way.

And now we come to Timothy Knox, that hunter and trapper squatter of the Kedron Valley who, according to Dana's history, came to the Valley in 1765 and was the only person in the town for a period of three years. The D. A. R. have put up a marker in the vicinity of his hut and on each Decoration Day they place a flag by it. Dana's Woodstock History tells a romantic tale about this squatter coming into the wilderness, that he was a Harvard student who had been disappointed in love and sought this remote spot in order to escape the beguilements of the fair sex. In preparation for this book I wrote Harvard Library asking for information about Timothy as a student there. This reply came:—

Harvard College Library
Archives Division.

"The records of Harvard have been searched carefully from 1750 to 1770 and the name of Timothy Knox does not appear. Does the Knox genealogy have any data about him, that might help solve the problem?" The Boston Historical Library and the Vermont one both investigated the Knox family tree but no Timothy hung on its branches even precariously.



Main Street, South Woodstock

I wrote again to the Archives Division of Harvard Library and quoted them from our town history where Timothy is reported to have said, "That all the good a college course ever did him was to save him from being impressed in the British Navy. While in College a press gang made an inroad upon Cambridge and carried off several young men. He was one of them, but was released, so soon as it was known that he belonged to the college." I received the following answer to this, "There is no record of any college students being carried off or even being attacked by press gangs. In the 1700's Cambridge was almost an infant town, the one carriage road to Boston being seven miles in length, while the short way was by ferry to Charlestown and then by bridge to Boston. Neither of these ways were convenient for press gangs to use. I wish you success in finding Timothy."

In the spring of 1937 I was so fortunate as to have the use of many of Swan Dana's notes, which are preserved in the first edition of his history and here I found this about Timothy, that he had been expelled from Yale because of drunkenness. I at once wrote Mr. Keogh, Yale's Librarian, who replied that Timothy was not on their records and since Yale Library had catalogues of all the early New England Schools, he had all of them searched, and no Timothy in any of them. All these replies make one wonder if Timothy was an escape from justice, living under an assumed name or a potential poet or dramatist, dreaming his parts and doomed to be unknown and, like the poet's rose, blush unseen. Where did he get his gun powder, did he use flints? What did he do with his furs? He had neighbors during these years in Hartland, Hart-

ford and Springfield. There were forts at the present Charleston, N. H., and Brattleboro. The Vernon Indians were passing frequently up and down the Connecticut, so it is a fair presumption that Timothy had some contacts with people.

In the summer of 1935 a woman came to Woodstock who said she was a descendant of Knox and wished to visit the D. A. R. house. By some strange fluke she did not get in and there was no attempt to learn her name or residence. If Timothy's early history is unknown, the records of Woodstock have considerable about him. He eventually married a girl named Abigail Dike and the report is that they had the usual large family of that period. She must have been the daughter of Ebenezer Dike who made the first census of Woodstock in 1771 for the State of New York. He was chosen because he had some degree of education. On the Hartland hill road is a ledge still called Knox's ledge and here Timothy and his Abigail lived. His boy Timothy was bound out to a Dana of Pomfret and he ran away. Dana offered one cent reward for his return. This was the usual price offered for runaways in those days, but a man who lost his watch offered a reward of $50. Watches were scarce and boys were too numerous.

The town history emphasizes Timothy's poverty but in the year 1787 the assessed value of his property was twenty-three pounds, a very excellent amount for that period. Only a few men possessed more, but misfortune dogged his footsteps and in May 1798, a guardian was appointed for him. His son John made desperate efforts to save his father's property. The Woodstock town records and the deeds give concise reports of several transactions. Poor

Timothy was, at the last, buried in an unmarked grave in the Cushing graveyard by some of his neighbors. The whispering pines sing his requiem.

Another thing that did not happen even though a vote was taken to do it, was this:—"The town meeting in March 1779 voted to build a meeting house on the road that goes from Samuel Pratt's to the other road west of Oliver Farnsworth's." Another town meeting was held the following July, when a motion was made to reconsider the vote taken in March about building a meeting house. This was carried and then they voted not to build any meeting house, and none was ever erected, but for some strange reason, the name Meeting house hill has stuck all these years to the elevation by that road. And there have been folks who claimed they had seen the logs which were used to build the church. They may have seen logs but they were not church logs for that Meeting house never did happen.

At the town meeting of July 1779 it was voted to divide the town into two Parishes by a center line through the town east and west, parallel with the town line and the people living near this line should go with the parish they preferred. At the March meeting of 1781, "it was voted to alter the Line of division and it should begin in the east line of the town where the bound now stands and run from thence Northerly on the east Line of the town, half a mile, thence Westerly on a strate half mile northerly of the line before Rim until it Strikes Quechee River to west line of the town." This is not a very clear description of this division of the town into two Parishes. I do not know what "bound" means in this connection.

The town was never two political units. The Freemen have always met in one town meeting. At this same meeting there was an article asking for the building of a bridge above Jabez Cottle's Mills. That did not happen to strike the town fathers favorably and a vote was taken to the effect that each Parish should build its own bridges. An article in the warning of 1790 read:—"to see if the town will give leave to set up innoculation for the small pox under such regulation as the law giveth." It did not happen to be set up. When one wants the facts read the records, if one does not care for facts, then accept the traditions with all of their inaccuracies. Each one to his own taste.

CHAPTER III

Creation of Woodstock

DEEDS AND TAXES

East and West, North and South as one enters Woodstock are markers saying the town was chartered in 1761. All that appears most simple but there are heaps of historical activities preceding that date as there were following it in the struggle for the independence of this little State, marked by riots and massacres.

It seems important that just a little of the early history should be noted; its details can be found in many books. King Charles the Second in 1664 says, "By the grace of God King of England france and Ireland Defender of the ffaith &c to All to whome these presents shall come Greeting Know Yee that wee for divers good Causes and Considerations there unto moveing us Have of our especiall certaine Knowledge meere mocon given and Granted And by these presents for us our heires and successors doe give and Grant unto our dearest Brother James Duke York his heires and Assigns." I quote no further from this marvelous document, but by it the King gave all the lands of New England from the St. Croix River to the Hudson and the land west of the Connecticut to the east side of

Delaware Bay. Martha's Vineyard is included also "to the river Canada" on the North. Our Vermont was a part of this magnificent grant.

Royal Governors appear who also have the Grace of God made manifest at least to them in their appointments. Benning Wentworth gets control of a generous portion in July 1741, through the instrumentality of the Most High as vested in his representative George the Second. Wentworth, fat and gouty, is to rule "from the Atlantic ocean to a place called Pautucket Falls and Straight west till it meets other Governments." Very soon he begins his settlements and Bennington, named to honor him, comes into existence. His zeal extends to include the lands west of the Connecticut and we have the Hampshire grants with reservations of five hundred acres in the several townships to the glory of the Governor. All this land also had been given by Royal Grant of Charles the 2nd to the Province of New York. Wentworth chartered sixty towns. New York chartered them also. This Windsor County was Cumberland County, Province of New York and many early deeds in Woodstock have their location so described. The earliest deeds recorded in the office of our town clerk are dated 1779. Earlier deeds are on file in Concord, New Hampshire, and Albany, New York, for settlers began coming in the late 1760's. The records of these first deeds should be copied and placed on file in Woodstock, so that all of these first transactions will be available for historical research and general information.

The thirst for land and speculation in its values approached a mania with multitudes of the Colonial settlers. Woodstock lands were bought by non-residents, men who

never intended to make homes here but who expected financial rewards from the sales of their large tracts. All of these towns of the Hampshire grants had some reservations, first the Governor's lot of 500 acres which was in the Northeast part of Woodstock and the Public Rights lands located in the Curtis Hollow region. These consisted of four small tracts—the one to the south, containing 300 acres, was set aside for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts under the supervision of the Anglican Church; the next, one containing the same number of acres, was for the benefit of a clergyman of that faith; the third one also with 300 acres was for the benefit of the first resident minister in Woodstock. Probably the Rev. George Damon got that. The lot to the north had 200 acres in it and was for the schools.

It was somewhat startling to find that two of these sequestered tracts, known as leased lands, still function. They are rented or leased and rents are paid for their use. The land for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts is claimed by the Episcopal Church of Vermont and the rent money goes into the treasury of the State Diocese and is used for the Episcopal Church here and not in foreign parts. What Anglican clergyman got the Glebe is unknown to me. Once upon a time back in the 1830's, Woodstock tried to recover these lands by legal means but failed. Just north of these leased lands and extending east from the Bridgewater line was the tract owned by Boudinot, containing 3000 acres. I quote him:—"I Elias Boudinot of the Elizabeth Town State of New Jersey, Doctor of Laws do by these presents make ordain constitute and appoint Charles Marsh of Woodstock in the State of Ver-

A Kedron Valley Landscape

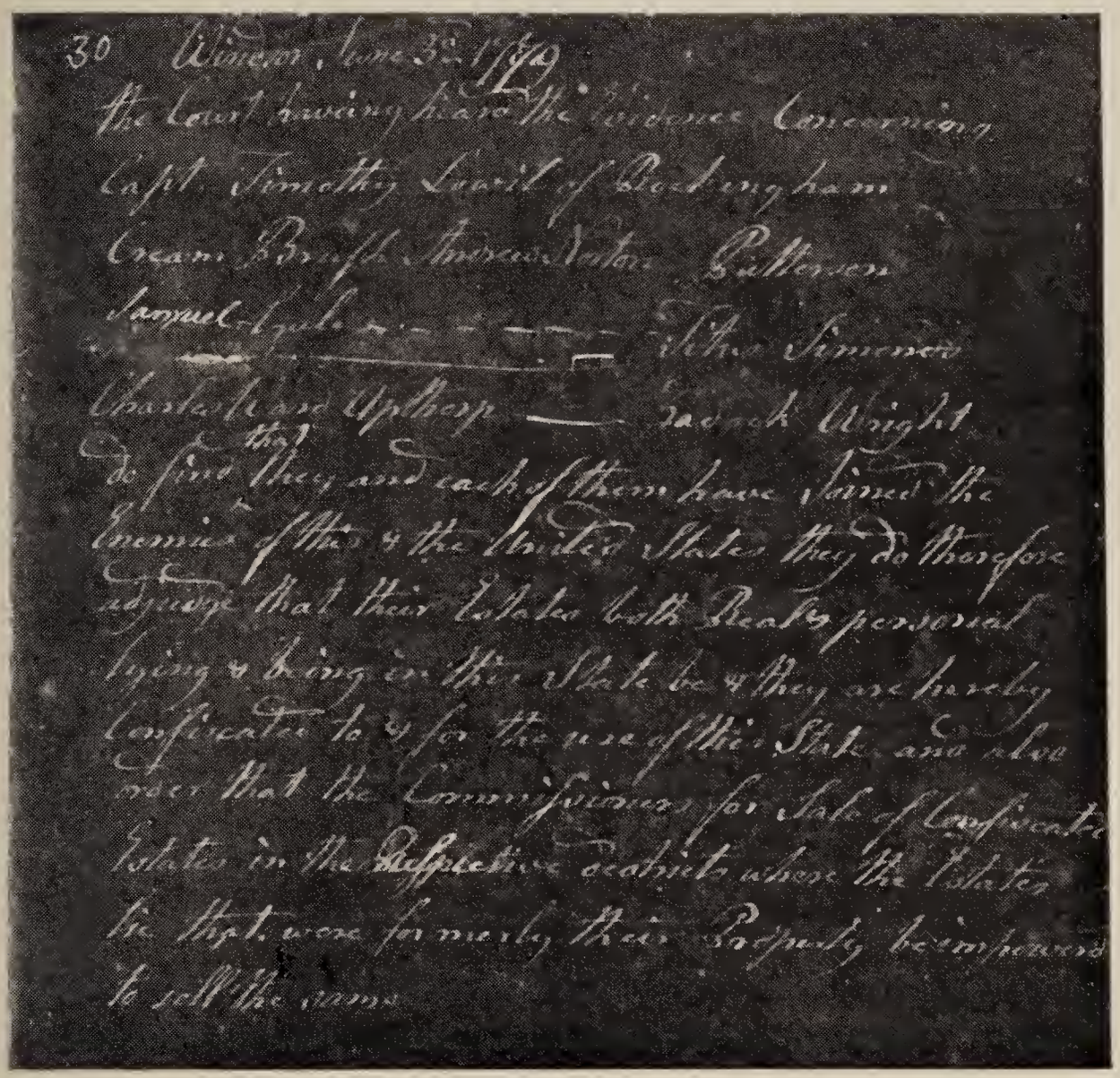
mont, Esq my true and Lawful Attorney." East of this tract lay that of "Jonathan Grout of Petersham in the Province of Massachusetts Bay." It contained 3000 acres and extended to the East line of the town. Directly north of the Grout tract was the 1200 acres belonging to John Church who lived for a time in Charlestown, N. H., and later in New York City. This land was nearly in the center of the town. The tract in the northwest portion of the town was bought by John Spencer of Trenton, N. J., though one item gives another address. It reads "Nehemiah Kemp of Woodstock sold this land to John L. Spencer of Philadelphia, Attorney and Counsellor-at-law." There were 1050 acres in this tract. Part of this land now lies in the town of Pomfret. The land east of the Spencer tract and including Mount Tom belonged to John Rogers of New York City. There is still standing on the mountain a stone post bearing the words "Rogers Tract." He wrote "I John Rogers a doctor of Divinity, of the City and State of New York." Mrs. Kate Howland Carbino of Woodstock owns a letter written by him to her ancestor, Nathan Howland, a Mayflower descendant and a Woodstock pioneer.

Charles Apthorp of New York City owned the southern part of the town. He made his purchase of David Page who was the leader of the group to whom Governor Wentworth made his grant of the town in 1766. When Oliver Willard bought the town in 1772, by some method Apthorp made a deal with Willard by which he retained his tracts of 7000 acres. These tracts were laid off in four ranges and lots of 100 acres each. There were ten series of these lots, numbered from east to west, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

When the Revolution was in progress and Vermont had set itself up as an independent State in 1777, without recognition from the general government, it was impossible to receive financial aid for the armed forces raised within the new State. The Legislature of 1779 passed the articles of Confiscation which meant the sale of all lands held by men sympathizing with New York and England. The Yorkers were considered a menace and their expulsion a necessity. Charles Apthorp gave his allegiance to New York and to England, so he was an enemy of Vermont and all his holdings in Woodstock were confiscated and Ebenezer Curtis of Windsor was appointed to sell these lands in Woodstock and three other towns, which he did with great success.

"Record of the Confiscation Court. Whereas—the General Assembly of the representatives of the Freemen of the state of Vermont, did order the confiscation and sale of the estates both Real and personal of the enemies of this and the United States, lying within this State, who have distinguished themselves by repairing to the enemy or other treasonable conduct, and did appoint the Governor of the State and the members of the Council to be a Court to confiscate and make sale of such estates. To Ebenezer Curtis—Gentleman—you being by said Court appointed a Commissioner to sell said lands &c—you are hereby authorized and fully empowered to sell at public vendue, or at private sale, all or any such lands, improvements, posessions, homes or other buildings, or such part thereof as you can sell to the advantage of the State lying in the towns of Windsor, Hertford, Woodstock, and Reading, and formerly belonging to the persons whos names are in

the list to this affixed, and by this court confiscated to the use of this State. You will give deeds in the name and behalf of the Representatives of the Freemen of this State if the title was derived from the government of New Hampshire—you will warrant the purchaser the said New Hampshire title—and if the forfeitor had only the New York title, where there is a New Hampshire Grant on said land —you will sell posession and improvements only—you will not sell on any other terms than for cash down, without liberty in writing from the court—you will take care to sell to persons who are known friends to this and the United States and who are disposed to settle and improve the lands soon. Such of said lands as are under incumberance by being let out by any of the Commissioners of sequestration you will sell under such incumberance, making such reserves as will be necessary to keep good the bargain or lease of such Commissioners of Seq—, You will take all proper means to make known that you have such lands for sale—You will take the advise of the Selectmen of the town where you sell lands &c—You will take care to ascertain the bounds and quantity of the lands you sell, and the exact sum you receive for such lands &c in the deeds you give—you will take care to obtain all the papers and writings that did belong to the persons, whose names are in the annexed list in order to ascertain the proper title to the lands, as also the debts and credits of such persons—you will take a certificate on oath from the persons to whom you sell such lands &c, certifying the exact sum or sums of money they pay unto you for any of the aforesaid lands &c, also ascertaining the bounds and quantity in what town, in what part of the town, and who was the



30 Witness, June 3rd 1779

the Court having heard the Evidence Concerning
Capt. Timothy Lovell of Rockingham
Cream Brush Thomas Nutter Patterson
Samuel Cate — — — — — Elias Simmons
Charles Lane Upthorp — — Jacob Wright
do find they and each of them have joined the
Enemies of the United States they do therefore
adjudge that their Estates both Real & personal
lying & being in this State be & they are hereby
Confiscated to & for the use of this State and also
order that the Commissioners for Sale of Confiscated
Estates in the Respective Districts where the Estates
lie that were formerly their Property be impowered
to sell the same

June 3rd 1779 in re the Act of Confiscation

forfeiter—which certificate you will transmit to this court for record—You will lodge the monies arising from such sales together with such moneys as you may collect being due by bond, note, or otherwise to said persons with the Treasurer of this State, which debts you are hereby authorized to collect—You will keep account of the time you spend in performing the business herein joined on you in order for settlement GIVEN under my hand at Arlington

THOS CHITTENDEN *Gov.*

July 16, 1779
Attest M Lyon Clerk"

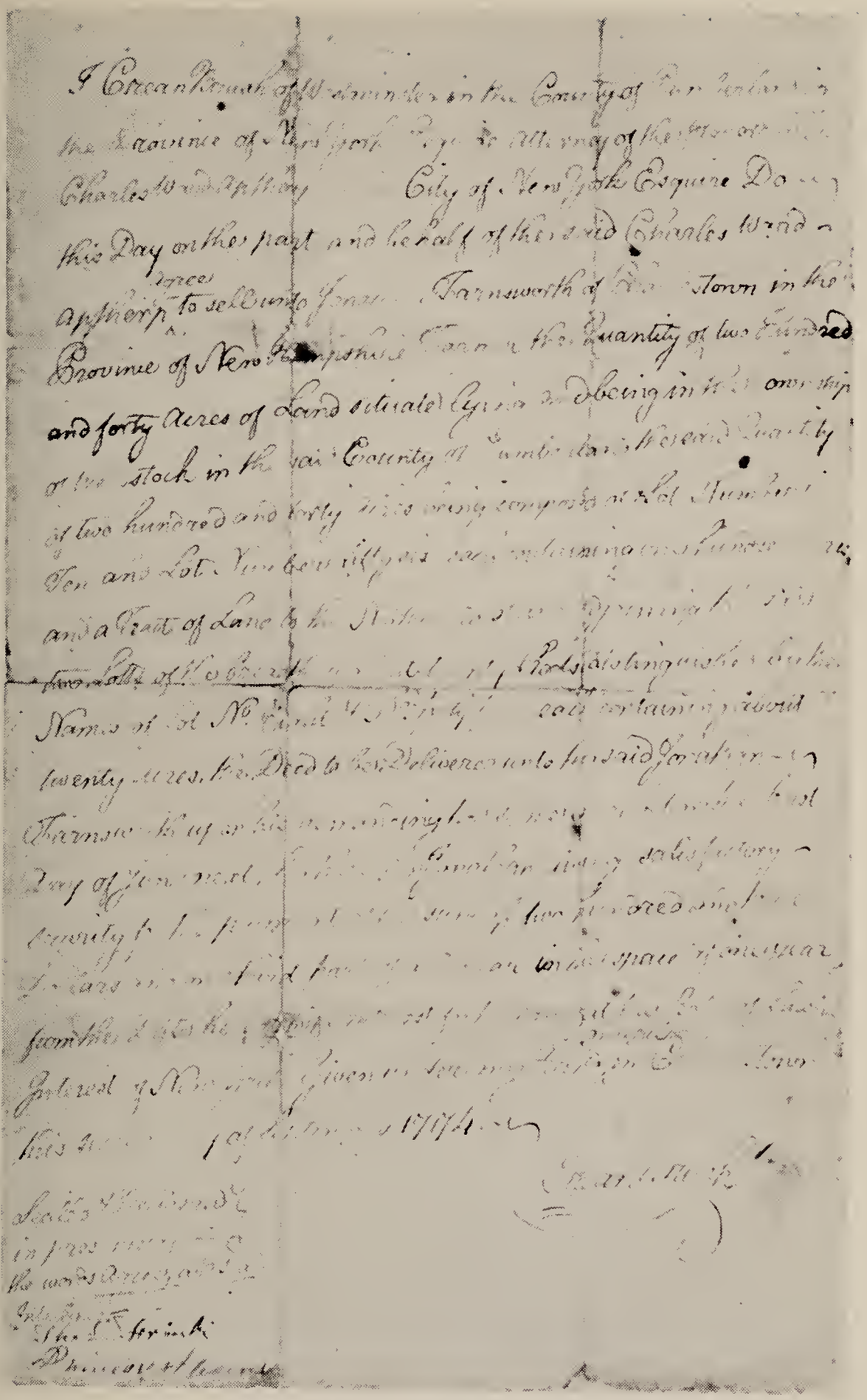
In the year 1794 Apthorp endeavored to recover this land. Charles Marsh of Woodstock was his lawyer. The case was carried to the Supreme Court where it failed because of various technicalities. After the death of Apthorp, his heirs made a futile attempt to regain the land. Abraham Kendall appears to have been the only person who paid any attention to them. He secured a quit-claim deed to his property. He owned two lots in range three, No. 2.

The oldest deed which I have seen is dated 1774. It was in six pieces, having been folded many years and broken in the folds. Dartmouth College Library mended it and made a photostatic copy which appears in this chapter. The Farnsworth mentioned was the ancestor of the late John Blake. His first name was Jonathan. Three Farnsworth brothers came to the South Parish. This deed of his was written by Crean Brush, a citizen of New York, an ardent supporter of the New York claims in this region. He was born in Ireland and after settling in the Colonies,

became a large land speculator. He was the step-father of the fascinating Fanny Buchanan, the young widow, who became the second wife of Ethan Allen.

Many of the early deeds in the town clerk's office tell in which tract the land was located. South Woodstock deeds mention Grout, Church and Apthorp, absentee proprietors of that section. I have read all of the deeds of Woodstock recorded before 1800. One would think that these early settlers coming here through the wilderness from Massachusetts and Connecticut, laboring under great difficulties, would all have made permanent homes. Instead, numbers of them went to the far West of those early days, the Genesee Valley, the Bristol Valley and the Holland Purchase, all in the State of New York. The Vermont papers in the 1790's were carrying advertisements of the fertile, level farming lands in those sections. The dwellers of these rugged hill farms found these notices attractive and quite a large number followed the gleam of level lands, as did their descendants in later years. Central New York is dotted over with people whose ancestors went from this State.

The ones who remained bought and sold among themselves to such an extent that the impression is made that nothing was so permanent in their lives as that of change. Very few names of the settlers of the South Parish are known to us in this present day. Kendall, Wood, Fullerton, Ransom, Perkins, Houghton, Slayton, Thomas, Page, Sherwin, Hoadley, Perry, McClay, Kingsley, Fletcher, Mack,—these names are still scattered about the town, though only a few of them remain in the South Parish. Cottle, Hammond, Lord, Ellis, Edson, Benjamin, Crooker,



Deed to Jonathan Farnsworth land written by Crean Brush, Sept. 2, 1774

Bridge, Sterling, Parker, Standish, and many others, are unknown. Visits to the old graveyards show the graves of some of them. There are descendants of the Brewsters, Peltons, Ralphs, Farnsworths, Burks, Randalls, Dunhams, Holts and a few other families living here but the surnames have disappeared.

The following article on District 18 was written about 1900:

"School District No. 18 in Woodstock is situated mostly on the easterly slope of 'Long Hill,' north of the dividing ridge between Woodstock and Reading, and West of the road leading from South Woodstock to Felchville, and contains about two thousand acres. The first land purchase by an actual settler was made by Captain Nathaniel Wood. His deeds for two hundred and fifty acres and one hundred acres of land bear the dates of September 20, 1779, and March 31, 1780. From this time it was settled very fast, and soon contained some thirty or more families, about many of which very little is known to the writer of this, except their names and the places upon which their houses were built. At the present time there are twenty-five vacant houses, only one of which will probably again be occupied by a family, and seven now occupied. In 1781 Feb. 20, John Darling bought fifty acres of land and settled in what was then called the center of the district. He subsequently bought about seventy-five acres more. He came from Middleborough, Mass., with his wife, Mary Wood, and one child. He was a steady, industrious, careful and calculating man, never thinking the battle was to the strong, or the race to the swift, but like the tortoise in the fable, ever kept the even tenor of his way.

"In 1786 Warren Cottle deeded to Dan Niles one hundred acres of land, which is now owned by William Cady and Sanford Wilder and wife, and soon moved on with his father, mother and wife. Mr. Niles was a tanner and shoemaker by trade, and had a tannery north of Wm. C. Cady's near the spring by the road. I have seen the remains of the old vats and spent bark. Some of the vats were made of plank, some being dug out of butternut logs. Mr. Niles must have been a hard working man, as he cleared a large part of his land and built two smallish frame houses close together, one for himself and one for his father and mother, who lived, as I then thought, to be very old people. Mr. Niles never had any children. By over-work and exposure he contracted rheumatism, which settled in his hip and he went with crutches—how long I do not know. In his testament I saw this record, 'If I remember right, when I was fifty-five years old I could walk but with one crutch.' He was very zealous in matters of religion, and attempted to organize a church, with Mr. Cowdrey as pastor. Hence he was called Deacon Niles. After he was too infirm to manage his place it was conveyed to Hiram Benson.

"In 1788 Dan Niles deeded the south half of his one hundred acres to David Mack. I think that the Nileses and Macks came from Lyme, Connecticut. Mr. Mack and his wife were very industrious people, and I suppose she wore short dresses, as she managed everything in doors and out, in an excellent manner; thereby they got along nicely, adding more acres to their homestead, and bringing up and schooling their children in a very creditable manner for those times. They had three sons and one daughter,

David, Daniel (father of the regimental chaplain, D. Mack), Samuel and Eliza. Mr. Mack and his wife lived to a good old age, he losing his mind somewhat prematurely, and Ezekiel Persons was appointed to manage his business. He was a revolutionary soldier, and drew a pension many years. During the latter part of their lives their son David lived with them at the old homestead.

"Joseph Darling, jr., deeded to Nathaniel Randall fifty acres in Dec. 1791, upon which he lived many years, rearing a large family of children. He married, and had by his first wife Lydia, Nathan and one that married John Wood, and by his second wife, Nathan Stetson's sister, he had Gaius, Priscilla, Stetson, Elias, Deborah and John. I think he buried one child named Thomas. Mr. Randall was eccentric, nervous, generous to a fault, especially to himself, given to much prophesying on the weather, his own death, etc., yet I believe he was well calculated to make the most of his means on hand, and that he was something of a poet, as the incident I relate will show. Being out of a team he broke a nice large heifer and bull to the yoke together and drew his winter's wood. Writing to his friends extolling the country and its advantages, he said:

> The snow is deep, the trees are tall,
> My bull and heifer draw it all.

"After their daughter, Deborah Burnham, died, their son, Gaius, came from Bristol, New York, and took his parents home with him, where they died at a good old age. William Barnes settled on the place now owned by Levi Blossom and son, about 1782, and lived there many

years. Their children, that I knew, were Joseph, Gideon, Zerah, Honas, Lucinda, Assenath and Amos. Mr. Barnes died in middle age. Mrs. Barnes lived to be eighty or ninety, and retained her faculties well.

"Nathan and Eunice Cook bought each fifty acres of land, now owned by Sanford Wilder, in 1782. Joel was their only child whom I ever knew, and whatever became of him and father I have forgotten. Mrs. Cook had all her effects, except what she had on, burned in the Stephen Farnsworth house. After that I think she never kept house. She lived to be quite old.

"Joseph Powers bought of Oliver Davis fifty acres in 1798, the Woodstock part of the Charles Washburn farm, and lived there many years, and I think both died there, and a son named Aaron. Their children were Joseph, Aaron, Benjamin, Susan, Asenath and Abigail.

"Zebedee Hackett bought fifty-five acres of Mannasseh Wood in 1791, now called the Gates place. He married Mannasseh Wood's sister, and by her had seven children, Darius, Sally, Bethany, Polly, Philo, Mannasseh and Huldah. His second wife was the widow of Aurunah Fullerton, by whom he had one, Betsey. When he and his wife got to be old and infirm they conveyed their substance to Lemuel Benjamin for their support, and died at his home.

"Joseph Darling deeded to Hadley Standish, in Nov., 1796, fifty acres of land, now owned by N. E. Wood. His wife was a Glover. Their children were Thomas and Sally (twins), John W. (father of B. F. and Professor J. V. N. of Galesburg, Ill.) and Mrs. Sanford Wilder, Sabrina, Parmeli, Orrin (died young), Samuel, Stephen, Abigail, Rosamond and Ira. A part of his children were born in Pem-

broke, Mass. Mr. Standish's large family required a larger farm, so he sold to Abiah Rice and went to New York not far from the year 1810, except John W., who settled on the place now owned by Sanford Wilder.

"Mitchell Pope and Ruth Hammond were married at the mature ages of nineteen and seventeen, and came and took a deed of Faunce Hammond, Jan. 1, 1789, of fifty acres now owned by Chas. M. White; subsequently he bought about fifty acres more. Their children were Elnathan, Nathaniel, Polly, Sally, Jabez, Reuben, Mitchell, Ruth, Cynthia, Luther, Thomas, Lutina and Andrew. Mr. and Mrs. Pope were good livers, and their latch string was always out, and their table quickly replenished to every hungry caller. Sally, Polly, Mitchell, Cynthia, Andrew, Mr. Pope, Luther and Ruth died at the old homestead, or at a neighbor's house in sight, and were buried on the old farm, their graves being unmarked and known only by a few of us who are left. Elnathan, Nathaniel, and Jabez settled in Wisconsin. Some twenty or more years after, Thomas sold the old homestead, and with his family, Mother (over 80) and Lutina, followed to Wisconsin. Reuben, I think, died in Greensborough, Vt. Soon after Elnathan came and took his widow and son to Wisconsin. Mr. Pope, in the discipline of his family, held the reins rather lax, yet grasped with a firm hand, and his children always knew how far and fast it would do to go. He held a certificate of membership with the Friends or Quakers, which he procured in this wise:—In Reading they had an established church and taxed the people for the support of the minister—I believe the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson. This tax, if paid by a certain time, could be paid in wheat. Availing

himself of this privilege, as money was hard to get, and the time about to expire, he took five pecks of wheat on his shoulder and started across the hills for Reading Center. It stormed gently, but soon increased to a rapid fall of snow which, he said, when he got to the Reverend's house, at about 2 p. m., was nearly knee deep. When he entered, the family were about to sit down to what appeared to him an excellent boiled dish for dinner. The Reverend gentleman sat down to the table, craved a blessing from the Author of all good, but did not ask Mr. Pope to partake with them. Mr. Pope's shoes (his leggins not being prepared) were full of snow, and sat down by the fire and dried them and his stockings as best he could. After dinner the Reverend arose from the table, measured the wheat and receipted the tax. This so irritated Mr. Pope, that he declared he would never pay another minister tax, if he had to move his house on to C. Tilden's land in Woodstock. Finding the Friends were exempt from the tax, he and many others availed themselves of the fact and joined them, and his house staid in Reading. None of his descendants are known to live in Vermont. Mr. Pope was a cripple, and lost his mind some years before he died.

"Joseph Barnes, son of William Barnes, received a deed of about fifty acres from Oliver Davis. Their children were: Ira, Mary, Delia, Mason, Laura, Louisa, Philander and William. Mr. Barnes was, during the war of 1812-15, a Federalist, and had displayed over his front door the heading of his paper in large fanciful letters, The Washingtonian; also on the wall of his living room, opposite to its entrance. I think he must have been conscientious in his belief, judging from the zealousness and vehemence

with which he discussed the political questions of the day. He lived but a short time after the close of the war, dying with typhus fever. His children all lived to man and womanhood, except William. None of them settled in Woodstock.

"Mr. Davis early settled on the farm next south of Reading line, on the main road. His children, whom I knew, were Oliver, Leonard, Samuel, Mrs. Joseph Barnes, and Mrs. Noah Cady. Mr. Davis must have been a man advanced in years when he came on, as all of his children were married and had families of their own at my earliest recollection. Oliver was married three or four times, I think four, his last wife being a Mrs. Holt of Sherburne, at which place he died. Leonard married Sarepta Cady, lived on the homestead some twenty or more years, then kept a public house in the village of Woodstock a few years. He died somewhat past the middle age, where I do not recollect. His widow married a Mr. Holden and lived to be 97 or 98 years old. Samuel also married a Cady girl, Sarah, and lived awhile north, I think Canada, then came back, lived on the William Barnes place, thence to Peterboro, N. H., thence back to West Windsor, at which place he died. His widow lived a few years after his death at the homestead, then in Reading with her son-in-law, Dexter Buck, at which place she died.

"Charles White had a deed of land from the original right of William Temple, about 1790, which was deeded by Gaius Randall to Benjamin Darling, Nov. 17, 1806. Mr. Darling married Huldah Morton, by whom he had three children, Betsey Maria, Huldah Morton and Ezra. In the winter of 1820-21 Mr. Darling and family emigrated to

Pennsylvania, near the New York line. Of Mr. White but little is known, except that he was a working man, and worked much for Nathaniel Wood, jr., and that he was much addicted to fun and romance. His family consisted of a wife and seven children. The place is now owned by H. H. H. Rood and Noah Edward Wood.

"Caleb Tilden was born in Massachusetts, Nov. 13, 1745, his wife, Joanna Barker, (a sister of Hon. Josiah Barker, a member of the General Court of Massachusetts, Sept. 2, 1745) were married Oct. 1, 1770. Their children were Sarah (married and stayed in Massachusetts), Joanna, Caleb, Ruth, and Josiah, who died when young. Mr. Tilden was an anchor maker and shipsmith by trade, but when he married he bought a place in Pembroke and run a grist mill—two run of stones, no bolt. After Caleb was eleven years old, he usually tended the mill, his sisters helping to handle the bags, his father working in the place where he learned his trade, coming home Saturday to dress the mill stones. In November, 1793, Mr. Tilden bought 110 acres, on which N. E. Wood now lives, and worked one year on it, sowing seeds for apples, plums, raising some grain, potatoes, etc., building a log house and shop for use when he took his family on. During that time Caleb, now 18, carried on his small place of twelve acres, running the mill in connection. During the winter of 1795 he returned home, 'sold out,' and Ezra Wood came with a 'spike team,' (two oxen and a horse,) taking a load of wheat and other stuff to Boston market, and took his family and effects to Vermont. Mr. Tilden, as his trade would indicate, was an excellent forger, and could fashion almost anything of iron, but was not a very practical shoer. He

 1206095

and Caleb soon became experts at making nails. By working in the shops when the weather was unpropitious and considerably nights, they soon had about one-third of their farm cleared, and a fine orchard of apples and plums planted, which bore abundantly for many years. Now there is but one solitary tree standing of the old orchard. Mr. Tilden, after Caleb lost his reason, cleared but little, cutting a small piece in winter, using the best timber for his fires. I had hoped to have given the prices of making nails by the thousand, shoeing and other smith work at that day, from his old book, which by the way, was kept in pounds, shillings and pence. By some fortuity it has disappeared.

"He was not ambitious, never wishing to engage in any business, public or private, except his own. He never (except compelled by dire necessity) bought a thing unless he paid in commodity or ready cash. He was a man of few words, never joining any religious denomination, but very exemplary in his conversation, in all his dealings with men and in his family, and it was remarked by one of the older inhabitants of the district, 'that he was one of the noblest works of God, an honest man.' On the 16th day of May, 1813, he worked alone mending fence. About sundown a passer saw him holding to the limb of an apple tree a few rods from his house, then fall. Jumping from his horse he started and gave the alarm, and ere he and Mrs. Tilden could get there with a pillow, he was dead. Mrs. Tilden, who was an excellent helpmeet, a willing sharer in all his trials and privations, of his joys and sorrows, survived him only a little over four years, dying at Noah Wood's, June 25, 1817.

"A man named Fowle settled on land now owned by Frank Wilder, a Mr. Reddington on land of George Spear, also a Mr. Tubbs, Webster, Bassett and Thomas in that part of the district. As they left no representatives in the district, I know but little about them except the places of their abode.

"Abiah Rice bought the land of Mr. Standish and moved on it about 1810. He was a very energetic and successful farmer, stock raising being his principal forte. His land extended from I. R. Fullerton's to Esquire Shedd's in Reading, almost two miles. In his dealings with men he claimed to be upright, punctual and exacting, the last of which he lived to perfection. Never would dispose of property unless paid in labor, commodity or hard cash—no shinplasters for him. In his family he was despotic, ruling with a rod of iron and enforcing with a birch withe, depriving all of his children at times the privilege of his house. He was a revolutionary soldier and drew an ensign's pension. His wife was a Sterlin, an excellent housekeeper and farm woman, who outlived him and received the pension till well into the nineties. Their children were Anna B., Irene, Sarah, and Calista, who now lives at the age of almost eighty-two years. Retiring, somewhat, from business he conveyed a part of his possessions to Josiah Page, conditioned for the support of him and wife. All went well for a while, when his elbow got crooked and he attempted to get it back, but Page, by the assistance of his father, was so far on the lead that it was thought they saved enough to buy a nice river farm. He next made a similar trade with Henry Hoadley. All went smoothly for a while. Again the waters were disturbed, but Mr. Hoad-

ley, by the assistance of his friends (all were his friends) got the inside track so as to save enough, it was thought, to pay him for his time and trouble. His next trade was with David Hammond of Reading, increasing the compensation one or two thousand dollars each time. All for a while was placid as a silver lake, but by and by the waters were disturbed and the waves ran high, but Mr. Hammond managed his bark so as not to get swamped. In one of the gales he said: 'Anything you want, yes, rum enough, if you want it, to swim in.' He suffered with cancer in his last years, one side of his face being almost gone. He died under Mr. Hammond's care, which was excellent. Mrs. Rice survived him and Mr. Hammond a number of years and died under the care of Mrs. Hammond, who, worn by toil and care, lived less than a year, I think, after the fulfillment of the contract."

Many more changes have taken place in that section in nearly forty years. Noah Wood was the author of the sketch and all his life he had known the whole region.

This deed dated December 3, 1783 is worthy to be recorded in this book. "Know all men by these Presents that I Joshua Slayton of Woodstock in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, yeoman, for the Compensation of Sixty Pounds Paid me in hand by Samuel White in this County and State, yeoman, the Present thereof I Do hereby acknowledge myself fully Satisfied and Contented and I do give grant Bargain Convey unto Said Samuel White his heirs and Assigns forever of a Sartain tract of land lying in Woodstock in the South Part formerly owned by Charles W. Apthorp of New York, now an Enemy to the United States of America, the said Peace of land is a hun-

dred acre lot Buting and Bounding Easterly on the land of Samuel Slayton Northerly of Benjam holt Bounding Westerly on the land of hoisington and Southerly on the town line to Have and to Hold the Above granted and Bargained premises with all the Appurtenances thereof to him the Said Samuel White his heirs and Assigns to their Proper Benefit and Behoof forever and I hereby engageing to warent and Defend the Said granted and Bargained Premises against all the lawfull Claims and Demands of any Person or persons what Ever Claiming from by or under me or my heirs or assigns of the original grantee or their heirs or Assigns in witness whereof I Do hereunto Set my hand and seal this thirteenth Day of September in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three. Signed and Sealed and Delivered in presents of us

JOEL BULLER

Witnesses JOSHUA SLAYTON

DESIRE SLAYTON

State of Vermont September 25, 1783

Personally appeared Joshua Slayton above named and acknowledged this instrument to be his free act.

JABEZ COTTLE

Justice Peace"

It was a rare thing in those early days to find a woman's name connected with a deed. In 1797 Wm. Ellis sells to Sall Perry a lot, "one corner of this land begins at the Road Leading from the South Parish meeting house and finally back to that point." The rods are all given in the deed. Sall has quite a number of land transactions re-

corded. Whether she was a widow or maid is not revealed. John Lathrop and his wife Betsy sell land to Beal Farnsworth on February 22, 1797. Polly Burk sells to Ebed Burk and also buys from him. She has several transactions in her name. John Blackwell sells land to Lillie Blackwell, also to Nabby Blackwell. Mary Burk sells to George Hammond. All these deeds are dated 1805. In 1804 Elijah Norton and his wife Eliza sell their farm. Eliza was the widow of Oliver Farnsworth and this farm was her share of his property and they sell the farm.

Many of the deeds reveal the so-called social standing of those buying and selling. A couple illustrations of these distinctions are given. Moses Kimball, gentleman, sells to Ephraim Ellis, yeoman, his land in South Woodstock in 1788. Elisha Nye, gentleman, in 1797 sells a farm to Andrew Thomas, yeoman. Pride of blood and descent are a very human trait.

Another type of deed appears on our records which I have named Deeds of Affection, though most of them have a decided commercial tinge. "I Samuel Dutton for the consideration of love and good will and Parental affection and for the consideration of Seventy Pounds give to my son Samuel," and then follows the description of the land marked by stakes and hemlock trees. This deed is dated 1796. Where are the trees and the stakes in this year of 1940? On March 10th, 1813 Wm. McClay had this deed recorded, "In consideration of the natural Love and affection which I bear unto my beloved daughter Eunice Fisher of Woodstock and for other divers good reasons and considerations, I give her the farm I now live on." The preceding year he had for the same parental affection and

other reasons, given his daughter Betsy the land which he had bought of Asa Green, and to his daughter Polly under the same terms he gave the land he had bought of Wm. Judwin lying north of the highway leading through his farm. He gave land to his son David but alas, son David had to pay for it.

GROUTS GREAT TRACT

Swan Dana in the first edition of his Woodstock history has many interesting facts which were omitted in the second edition. These items about the first settlers on the Grout Tract need to be preserved. Only five names of those pioneers exist here at the present time.

What is known now as the Fletcher School was the center of the first purchases. The others radiate from there as spokes from a wheel. In 1773, Sylvanus and Joseph Cottle made their first purchase. Later it was discovered that part of Joseph's land was in the Apthorp tract, but the difficulty was adjusted. Warren Cottle bought two lots in the same neighborhood, one east of Joseph, one west of Sylvanus. This one was soon bought by Frank Brewer. Then John Cottle appeared and bought north of Joseph and Edward Cottle bought north of John. Jabez appears and buys a large tract east of Joseph, extending nearly to the town line. Jabez sold the south end of this lot to Ephraim Allen in 1786. It already had a house on it and the north part he sold to John Mack in 1791. John Hammond bought land north of Mack in 1779. Eleazer Parker bought his farm in 1780. This is the Wilbur Perkins homestead. Nathan Avery in 1789 bought just north of the Parker farm, along the east line of the town and extending to the

Elisha Lord farm which was on the road to the east going over the arched stone bridge. Just north of Joseph Cottle's farm, Asahel Hoisington settled. He bought this land of his brother Joab, who lived where the Savings Bank stands, in 1771 and settled here in 1772. This is the Bagley farm west of the Fletcher School. In 1803, it was known as Lot No. 6. Asahel sold out to Salmon Hoisington in 1803 and moved away. Elijah Perry bought land just east of this farm for his son James in 1787 and additional land adjoining in 1792. Then in 1782, Nehemiah Mack bought land northwest of the Perry farms and in 1786, he bought twenty acres and the house of Nathan Avery and lived just north of the Eleazer Parkers many years. In 1782, Elisha Ransom bought Mack's land lying east of John Hammond's and north of Jabez Cottle's. North of this Ransom farm, Nathaniel Pool who was a blacksmith, bought a farm in 1778 and lived here till 1796 when he sold to Micah Holmes. These farms were on the hill road which comes out by the Paul Kendall place. Ransom continued to buy land in this section. James Cobb in 1777, bought a farm west of the Pool place but never lived there and a year later, the records described it "as the land of the late Seth Cobb." It lay north of Elijah Perry whose farm was on the hill road coming out by the tomb. Amasa Delano lived west of the Perry farm on lot No. 2, having settled on it in 1773. This is the farm owned by Mrs. A. B. Greene. Delano lived there several years and then moved to lot No. 6, range three of the Apthorp tract. He finally deeded this farm to his son Jabez in 1792 and moved to Windsor.

Ichabod Perry bought in 1777 the farm north of the Delano farm "on what is called Meeting-House Hill." Ben-

jamin Mack bought land west of the Perry farm in 1794. He bought his land of Amasa Powers. Stephen Paddock settled west of Mack in 1794 and just south of Stephen. Wm. Paddock made a purchase in 1780. His land was bounded on the south by that of Boardman and on the west by Hunt and McClay. Bear in mind that the Paddocks and Mack lived on that road going west just south of Mrs. Temple's home. Going south over the Boardman tract, we come again to the Cottles. Just north of the Frank Brewer farm was land owned by James Park of Claremont, New Hampshire, who bought it in 1794. Wm. McClay, the Scot, lived north of this farm. We are now on the north side of Fletcher Hill. William bought this land of Elisha Hunt in 1779. Hunt had bought it in 1776 when it was described as "one lot of land No. 18 in the original draught of lots in said town." In 1784, McClay bought more land to the north, Asa Green lived just west of McClay, Linn Dexter owned land south of them and Samuel Warren was living south of that in 1787. Philip Hammond owned a small tract east of Warren while south of Warren was the farm of Elijah Royce which was bounded by the Apthorp tract. The deed says that the southwest corner of his land began about twelve and one half rods westwardly of a bridge on the road leading from Samuel Field's to Sylvanus Cottle's." He received his deed from Grout in 1786. This Royce land was where the so-called Townshends Corners are located. Noah Crooker bought the land west of the Royce place in 1795. (This is the Dr. Doubleday home.) Winslow Phelps settled in 1794 on the lot north of Crooker. Abel Pain was at the southwest corner of Green's land. Winslow Stetson owned a

gore between Winslow Phelps and Benjamin Wood and another strip between them was owned by Robert Hill, a Scotchman. Hill bought his land in 1790, lying mostly on the east side of the road from Nathan Russ to the south. This land bordered on the Apthorp tract. He also owned land south of Stetson and west of Phelps.

Benjamin Wood's land extended to the north line of the Grout Tract and adjoined Thomas Root, Hill, Green and others. The northwest corner of the great tract was sold in 1790 to Thomas Barrows. This land extended easterly on the north line of the tract eighty-four rods to the highway and then southerly by the highway down to the land of Consider Lucas, then to the west line of the tract. Consider Lucas lived south of the Barrows' farm. It joined the Apthorp tract on the west. Lucas bought his land of Thomas Root in 1790, Robert Waterman bought just south of Lucas in 1790. In 1791, Samuel Barrows and Vespasian Hoisington who owned adjoining farms, sold to Wood who became the owner of a big farm. This description covers nearly all of the original purchases in the Grout Tract. South of this lay the Apthorp Tract of some seven thousand acres, all of which was confiscated land. Here settled the Kendalls, Ralphs, Slaytons, Woods; also Lake, Standish, Stow, Field, Anthony and others. (These others are always so disappointing when we want their names.) The whole District of 17, nearly all of 18 and a large portion of 16 lies within this tract. This is a free transcription of the Dana story of the Grout Tract.

Since we still have sequestered lands for pious and public uses, it may be of some interest to read one of the leases by which a person secures the use of such land. All the

people mentioned in this lease lived on Slayton hill in South Woodstock. Note the word indenture. The Indenture given here was made February the 15th, 1839. "By and between the Society for the Gospel in foreign parts, a corporation established at London in that part of Great Britain and Ireland called England by their Agent and Attorney, John A. Pratt of Woodstock, in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont, of the first part and Amos Ralph of Woodstock in the County of Windsor and State aforesaid of the second part, witnesseth:—That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the Rents, Covenants and Agrements hereinafter mentioned and reserved on the part of the said party of the second part to be done and performed, hath granted demised, leased and to farm, let unto the said party of the second part, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, a certain tract or farm of land situate, lying and being in Hartland aforesaid and described as follows, to wit:—Beginning in the Westerly line of the Propagation lot so called at the North West corner of the lot of land this day leased to Jacob Holt, Amos Ralph and James Slayton then north 33 East on the West line of said propagation lot one hundred and seventeen rods to land leased to Henry Rood then South 55 East seventy eight rods then South 19 East twenty nine rods then South 29 West twenty four rods to the North East corner of the aforesaid lot leased to Holt Ralph and Slayton, then North 69, West one hundred six rods to the place of Beginning Containing Sixty five acres but be the same more or less. To have and to hold the above Demised Premises with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof and thereunto belonging to him the said

party of the second part, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns from the first day of February 1839 so long as wood grows and water runs, yielding and paying therefor yearly and every year during said term unto said party of the first part or to their lawful agent in the town of Woodstock on the first day of February annually the yearly rent or sum of eighteen Dollars and ninety cents, and the said party of the Second part doth for himself, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns hereby covenant to and with said party of the first part, their Successors and Assigns, to pay to said party of the first part or their Assigns the yearly rent aforesaid on the first day of February annually as aforesaid and that he will well and truly perform and fulfill all and every the Covenants contained in these presents, on his part to be done, kept and performed to the true intent and meaning of the same. And the said party of the first doth hereby covenant to and with the said party of the Second part that he his Heirs and Assigns, well and truly paying the rent aforesaid and observing performing and fulfilling the Covenants herein before mentioned on his and their part to be observed and performed shall and lawfully may have hold and occupy the said Demised premises with the appurtenances thereof without any let, hindrance suit trouble ejection claim or demand whatsoever of the party of the first part.

And it is hereby further declared to be the true intent and meaning of these presents and of the parties aforesaid that in case the said yearly rent aforesaid, hereby reserved, or any part thereof shall be behind and remain unpaid for the space of ten days, after the same shall become due,

that then, and from thence forth it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the first part, by their Agent or Attorney, unto and upon the said Demised premises and any part thereof in the name of the whole to re-enter and the same to have again, repossess and enjoy as in their first and former Estate, and him the said party of the second part or any other person or persons holding from, by, or under him, to expel, remove and turn out, any thing in these presents to the contrary not withstanding.

In witness whereof, the said John Pratt Agent and Attorney for the said party of the first part hath hereunto set his hand and seal, and the said party of the second part hath set his hand and seal, the day and the year first above written Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in presence of

John A. Pratt
Amos Ralph
Jacob Holt
James C. Slayton

State of Vermont *Woodstock February 15th 1839*
Windsor County S S Personally Appeared
Amos Ralph and John A. Pratt
and acknowledged this instrument by them signed, to be their free act and deed

Before James C. Slayton
Justice Peace"

TAXES

Owning property involves taxation. A Woodstock town meeting in 1788, voted to raise a tax of two pence on the pound of all property on the Grand List. This tax to be

paid in wheat at 5 shillings, Rye at 4 shillings, corn at three shillings per bushel of schooling. In 1789 they voted a tax of one penny on the pound in wheat at 5 shillings a bushel to defray the town debts.

At a meeting in 1797 of the County representatives "a tax was laid on all the polls in the County to finish paying for the Gaol in Woodstock and the town clerks shall collect and return them."

Then as now town and county taxes were regarded as troublesome things, but a greater burden was in store for the property owners. The session of the Legislature which met at Windsor, in the year 1797 voted on the 10th of November a tax of one cent on each acre of land "Except the Sequestered lands which are devoted to public, pious and Charitable uses," the town Clerks and Treasurers were ordered to make the collections on or before the first day of June 1798, in hard money, or the lands will be sold to pay the tax and meet the costs. This document was signed by James Fletcher, Collector, South Woodstock.

Some of the men paid the tax, others did not but let their possessions be put up at public auction and then they proceeded to bid them in at the tax rate of the one cent per acre. They also had to pay the costs of the sale which was the interesting sum of twenty five cents. Ephraim Brewster paid for his 303 acres, 328 cents. Winslow Phelps, Elisha Rice, Israel Houghton, Ebenezer Dike, Elisha Field, Stephen Farnsworth, John Cottle, Benjamin Wood and Asahel Doubleday did the same. Dr. Stephen Drew bought Elisha Taylor's land. Elisha Perkins bought Wm. Perkins land. John Knox bought the land of his father Timothy Knox, Stephen Paddock bought Jonas Fletcher's

farm. David Smith bought Sall Perry's farm. Both Elisha and William Lord let their farms be sold as did the heirs of Wm. Ellis. This direct tax made various changes in the ownership of land not only in the South Village but throughout the town.

A direct State tax was bad enough but worse was to come. Vermont from the time it had adopted its Constitution in 1777, had repeatedly applied for admission to the Union but many forces militated against its admission. The year 1791 found the little independent State one of the sisterhood of States. Up to this date, she had paddled her own canoe. When needing money for defense during the Revolution she used the monies from the sale of the confiscated lands. Her position was changed by admission into the Union—that Union needed money for its war debts and for the maintenance of the Federal Government. Congress on July 14, 1798 passed a Direct Federal Tax to be paid by all owners of land, whether residents, non-residents, or proprietors. Windsor County was duly notified and there appears in Spooner's Journal this item:—"Notice is hereby given to all owners of land in the townships of Windsor County (the three classes mentioned above) who have not paid the direct tax which was passed by Congress July 14, 1798, must appear at the home of Elijah Burton in Norwich on the second Monday of April next at 9 o'clock in the morning unless prevented by previous payment so that so much of their lands or dwelling houses can be sold at public auction to pay said tax and cost."

This item unfortunately has been cut and sadly mutilated in this number of the Journal so that some of the Woodstock names are illegible, but enough of them remain

to make this warning delightful reading and thrillingly interesting. Our South Woodstock Independents who failed to pay the tax, no doubt asked themselves why should they pay a Federal tax. They were perfectly able to do so, their names are written in the records as owners of large farms, but that Federal Government was something far away and not more than a name to them. The largest tax to be paid was 642 cents, but that thrifty soul lived on the Bridgewater road. Our Kedron Valley and South Woodstock friends had taxes amounting to 562 cents, 427 cents, 347 cents and 333 cents and on down the line to 27 cents. Two women are cited to pay. The names of 53 men appear, 19 of these, which can be read, belong to the South Parish. As these people continued to own their farms, they must have parted with their cents thereby preserving their sense of real values. Since the year 1798 the people of this country of ours have learned much about Federal and State Taxes and there are those in our midst who have not yet learned to love them.

CHAPTER IV

Early Roads and Homes

CHINESE PICTURE PUZZLES and all the puzzles ever invented, are simple things compared with the early road surveys. The very earliest ones in Woodstock were never recorded, though there are references to them in the Town Meeting records. I have had the opportunity of reading the first ones which are recorded and for seventy-five years following. Language is not vivid enough to describe the difficulties involved in such reading. Confusion becomes confounded and compounded. It is well known that the early surveying instruments were deflected by certain minerals in the rocks and often queer things happened. The points of reference in the surveys were trees, stones, stakes, chimneys, corners of buildings. Stones are blasted, trees die, stakes are pulled up, houses disappear. Some later surveys mentioned the northeast chimney on Billy Brown's house, the southeast corner of the brick school house, Avery Colston's chimney, Betsey Kingsley's chimney and even the belfry of the Chapel.

In the earliest decisions about roads in the town it was decided to have one road crossing the town from north to south and another one crossing from east to west. Of course this was never done. But at an early day a road went

up the present Church Hill at the Green, and somewhere near the old Murdock farm, cut across to Townsend's Corners, then to Chase's Corners, down the south side of Long hill into what was once a thickly settled region, where John Sargent had his camp. All of the houses are gone at that point, a graveyard with its stones tells the names of the settlers, on past a lovely brick house now owned by the Pulp Company, then past the Sawyer graveyard and on by the old Sawyer stand where in these years antiques are sold. These places are in Reading. This road is open for a short distance beyond the Sawyer house, in which was born Thomas Jefferson Sawyer who in his lifetime was a distinguished Universalist Minister and under whom the father of Otis Skinner trained for the ministry as did other men. This road now becomes only a faint grassy path. It came out at the south end of the valley through which the Twenty Mile Stream flows and went on to Proctorsville. In our town this road was known as the Great Highway. The road from Windsor in those days came over the hills and entered the Green on the north of the big stone house where the Pearl Clarks live and it followed the bank of the river in what is the North Village. Very early, roads left the Great Highway and went down the hills into the South Village for it was the trading center for the families on the hills.

At a town meeting in 1776, Joseph Cottle of the South Parish was chosen one of the two road commissioners. "In 1778 it was voted that the roads shall be located as laid before the town, at the meeting in 1777 and the Commissioners shall be paid Six shillings a day for laying them out." The minutes of the meeting of 1777 were never pre-

served, that year is a blank in the town records so all we can do is to guess and guessing is not worth the effort. At a meeting in 1779, two hundred pounds were voted to repair the highways and labor shall be paid twelve shillings a day. In 1778, the town voted that Jonathan Slayton could have the privilege of a bridle path across his improved land. Tradition has it that a sort of road went from the Green over the ridge of hills east of the Country Club and to the settlement named New Boston. A good many families had settled in that region and of course they must have some outlet. The waters of the brook were harnessed to mills at the foot of Dunham hill, so roads were a necessity.

The first survey for a road from the Green to the present South Village, was made in 1787 by Ephraim Brewster and Richard Ransom, both large land owners in this section and they wanted a road to pass by their property. Another survey was made in 1804 to alter a part of the road from the Court house to the South meeting house, beginning at the south west corner of Jason Richardson's south barn, thence going to Mr. Mower's south line, then east to the line of the highway. Beginning on the east side of highway opposite John Blackwell's house and then opposite the old saw-mill, near Lysander Richardson's place. John Blackwell lived on the west side of the road just beyond the Dunham hill road, and Lysander Richardson lived where Harry Baker lives, by the arched stone bridge. The meeting house mentioned in these early surveys stood about where the South Village school is located. It belonged to the Congregationalists.

A survey was made in 1805 which involved the Dunham

hill road. It began on the north side of the road of the Hatzel Pelton farm and went to Arnold Smith's and then to Simeon Dunham's home. Gates were placed between the Smith farm and the Dunham farm. This road is now impassable, but less than twenty years ago I drove over it many times with horse and buggy, always being compelled to open and close the gates. Arnold Smith settled where Sidney Richardson lived many years. Edith Goode has her charming cabin at the Dunham place and Hatzel Pelton lived on a farm above the Arnold Smith place. Pelton owned much land in that section. In 1851, a petition was presented to the town to make the road from the Carys to the Morgans, a public highway. It was done and that short stretch of road has been a public road ever since. It goes back to Dr. Goodridge's summer home.

In 1856 a survey was made further up this hill road which for many years has curved around the hill near the one time Dearborn park and then over the ridge where it joins the Hartland hill road near the old Darling farm. The survey says:—"Commencing on the north side of the road leading to John Cary's house from the southwest corner of Tracy Bingham's garden wall then to the center of the gateway and then through the gateway to a stake on the Northwest Corner of H. P. Dunham's Wood house, this survey is for the center of the road and two rods wide. $10.00 damages must be paid to Bingham." At this time the Tracy Bingham house was the first one on the left above the Richardson farm. Horace Dunham lived in the house just back of the Bingham place, on the hill side.

In 1810, another survey was made from the Court house to the South Meeting house. This one began "At a line

between John Carleton's and Lyman Mower's, on through Swan's swamp, then to an Elm on the Brewster place to a small brook (we call it Hedgehog Brook these days, a lovely stream deserving a more poetical name), on past the Sterling home. Then into Shurtleff Crosby's farm and to Mr. Hovey's, opposite Bishop's sawmill, then easterly to the line of the highway as formerly laid out, then to a few rods south of John Blackwell's farm, which aforesaid corners are the easterly side of the highway which extends four rods westerly therefrom."

In 1820, a survey was made from the Ralph farm to the present Upwey farm. A road once turned to the right just beyond the home of Robt. White, one part of it, went up the hill and came out by the Randalls; the longer portion branched off to the left and passed to the rear of the Methodist graveyard and the Methodist meeting house, past Drew's sawmill and on to the South Meeting house. After the portion of this road near the White place was given up, it joined the present highway by the old Christie farm. This road always had gates and bars. Several surveys were made of it. By a vote of the town in 1827, it was discontinued though since we have lived in Woodstock, it was possible to drive this road with horse and buggy from the graveyard to the Christie place and onto the main road. The Christie place is now owned by the Fowlers of Newark, New Jersey.

This remarkable statement appears on the records of 1828, "The road from the school house in district No. 12 to the Reading line be discontinued as a public road and set over the present road through public land owned by John Pratt to the said John Pratt and do lay out a Pent

road from the school to the Reading line in the same place where the public road was laid and order John Pratt or person occupying the public lot formerly leased to Atipos Bowker to set up and support a gate or a pair of barrs." This order is signed by Sylvester Edson, one of the Selectmen, and a South Woodstock resident. Without doubt these officials understood all about this road but to me it is as clear as mud.

I deem it important that the exact words of one of the surveys be given with its degrees and rods. When this has been read, and it characterizes all the surveys, the conclusion must be drawn that it is no easy matter to tell the exact ground over which the roads passed, when all signs of them have disappeared. Having read dozens of surveys and knowing fairly well the location of the lands of some of the early pioneers, the difficulties of locating all the twists and turns of such roads are just about insurmountable. Now for the survey of 1822, "A survey in Alteration of a part of the highway in Woodstock leading from the Courthouse towards the South Meeting house. Beginning in the line between John Carleton and Lyman Mower on the east Side of the highway, 187 rods from the Court house, thence S 18° West 20 rods thence S 18° 60° into Swamp on Mr. Swan's land then S 4° W 22 rods thence S 7° East 30 rods thence S 7° East 30 rods then S 7° E 14 rods to Elm on bank of brook thence S 2° E 20 rods thence S 19 rods to a birch tree on a large rock then S 12° W 28 rods then S 23° W 26 rods thence S 31° W 59 rods to a small Elm on the Brewster lot thence S 24° W 33 rods thence S 16° W 9 rods thence S 3° W 10 rods opposite Mr. Brewster's house thence S 19° W 48 rods to

a small brook then S 5° and 61 rods a little beyond Mr. Sterlin's house thence S 21° E 22 rods then S 4° E 25 rods then S 2° W 31 rods thence S 10° opposite Mr. Bishop's sawmill S 5° E 29 rods thence S 50 rods thence S 5° and 16 rods into an easterly line of the highway heretofore laid and a few rods south John Blackwell's Barn which aforesaid bounds the easterly side of the highway which extends 4 rods westerly therefrom of the survey of July 11, 1810." This Survey is signed by Oliver Williams, Surveyor, George Williamson, George Lake and Elisha Royce, Selectmen. When one has digested thoroughly that description of the road from the Court house to less than three miles on the South road, something happens to the cockiness of being absolutely sure just where the highway was. This survey gives one the feeling of travelling at least one hundred miles.

There are old roads on Slayton hill which can be walked. Starting by the Ralph graveyard and going west, two cellar holes are passed on a beautiful hill with enchanting views; here lived some of the first Slaytons. Following an indistinct path through the woods one emerges at last on the top of Reading hill. Going from the Tom Boyd house, an old road, fit only to be walked, once entered the Reading road beyond the Standish place. Leaving the South Village for the Green, on reaching the house where the Cowdreys now live near the old mill, an early road begins just south of the house and winds around the front of that hill and then over it. It enters the Pisgah road just beyond the Cady house. This is a delightful tramp. The remains of a brick house are passed on this road. This house was built by Amaziah Kendall in 1817. Sullivan Cady lived in it for

years. The walls of the living room were stenciled. It was quite a fine story and a half house but like all neglected things, ruin is its fate. Returning to the highway from whence we started up this hill road, going towards the North Village, one crosses almost immediately two bridges over the Kedron, just beyond the second one; on the right side there can be seen the remains of an old road which went up that hill and came out near the former Rood home.

The photostatic copy of a map of Long hill, shows fairly well, roads and homes of that region of an earlier day than ours. The Woodstock map of 1832 shows the roads existing at that time. One of these maps is in the Norman Williams Library. I own one of them. They are a scarce article, but very informative.

Near by the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Doubleday, in a region which once had many houses and where now only cellar holes remain to tell us of human habitations, a road went off to the south. Jonathan Crooker lived on it and tradition has it that his twin children are buried near by; also his slave who met an untimely death at the hands of his master. A family of Hoisingtons also lived on this road; a cellar hole, and a superb spring are the reminders of life here. Once a leach stone lay partly hidden in the grass and this meant that they made their lye and soap as all good pioneers did. This road once entered the Mossy Road when that was a real thoroughfare. Noah Crooker settled where the Doubleday summer house is. He came from Pembroke, Massachusetts, in April 1795. Winslow Phelps of Marlborough, Massachusetts settled in this region in 1794. Winslow Stetson owned land in this

section as did Robert Hill and Nathan Russ, Samuel Barrows, Vespasian Hoisington, Consider Lucas, Thomas Root, Robert Waterman and Benjamin Wood. Would it not be interesting to meet their ghosts coming back to view their homes?

Just beyond the Doubleday home a road turns off to the right and ambles on until it joins the Woodstock-Bridgewater highway by the present narrow iron bridge. About half way down this road, another one branched from it on the right and entered the Fletcher hill road. At the present time, the whole course of these two roads cannot be used, even with horse and buggy. Near the spot where road goes off to the east is a big rock on which is cut the following inscription, which some of us have called the Lover's Lament. "In Memory of Stephen P. Truesdell

When such sad scenes the bosom pain
What eye from weeping can refrain."

Just below these lines are cut two hearts with a cross between them. Above one heart is the word Venus, above the other one the word Cupid. Who Stephen was and why these lines, no one knows. It is one of the mysteries of our hills.

In 1855, a road from the Green Mountain Institute to the highway directly in front was laid out. This took some land belonging to the school located on the side of the road. Ten dollars were paid for the piece of land over which the road had to pass. In 1857, the road to the two brick houses north of the Institute was made a public road with the stipulation that it must be twenty feet wide.

Our records are weighed down with the opening of

Pent roads, with the closing of the same. This process was repeated several times on the same road. The town had small funds for the building and upkeep of its early roads and if a road was not absolutely necessary, the town meeting would vote to give it up. Times have changed. Under the present laws, State grants are received in proportion to the mileage of the roads in the towns, so the tendency is decidedly strong to hold on to the back roads and so draw more funds though such roads do not receive all the benefits they should. There are no records of any toll gates in the South Parish.

The many old abandoned roads on Long Hill are a maze of intricate design and to us of the present day, are difficult to trace. Years ago, we drove from Bailey's Mills in Reading along a road which was destroyed by the flood of 1927. Eventually we reached Chase's Corners which are in Reading and there bearing to the right, we finally landed on the main road near the Cady place in South Woodstock. The old school building was still standing just back on the hill road, a short distance from the highway. Again we went to Bailey's Mills and to Chase's Corners, intending to go through Curtis Hollow but were prevented by a fallen tree lying across the road, and we finally fetched up in Plymouth Five Corners. With Florence Doubleday, I have walked from Townsend's Corners over a swampy road, then over the so-called Mossy road, and have tramped from the Darling chimney to the old Otis Wood house. Going straight up the hill from this house, one passes the farm owned now by Eugene Rhodes. Near his barn the road divides; the one going straight ahead, finally reaches Chase's Corners; the one to the right after

a time ties up with the Mossy road and going south from that point, Chase's Corners are again reached. There are no houses on any of these roads, only cellar holes, cinnamon roses, old stone walls and trees. At Chase's Corners lived Mrs. Chase who doctored the ailing people of the region and who was reported to possess some sort of necromancy which had curative powers. Doctors were scarce in those early days and a woman who knew medicinal roots and herbs was a welcome person when there was illness.

Having tramped these old roads and driven a few of them with horse and buggy when that was possible, let us visit some of the houses still standing and also endeavor to locate the forgotten homes of pioneers. Charles M. White and Mrs. R. H. Kingsley, two of our Veterans, who have forgotten nothing of South Woodstock history which they ever knew, have given much information concerning the early families of the region. The first very limited edition of Dana's Woodstock history has also been a source of historical value. Using these three as references and each in a valuable way supplementing the others, I shall endeavor to save as much as possible the interesting facts of bygone days.

Charles White's family moved to Woodstock from Bridgewater in 1860, when he was ten years old. He has made a list of the families then living in the South Parish, down the Kedron to the limits of the Green. Mrs. Kingsley was born in the town and through family inter-marriages is related to most of the South Parish people. Going up the hill road in what was once School District 18, the Whites bought a farm once owned by John W. English. This had been the home of Abiah Rice, also of Andrew

Smith and his family of brilliant children. The frame house on this site was built in 1803. Only a beautiful cellar hole and the faithful lilacs remain. Above this place lived Putnam Burnham and the roses still bloom about the forsaken yard. Noah Wood, great grandfather of A. F. Wood, with his wife, Ruth Tilden Wood, had their home on this hillside and their son Otis was born here in 1805. When the child was three years old, the family moved down the hill to what we still call the Otis Wood place. Nathaniel Wood of Middleboro, Massachusetts, bought many acres in the first and second ranges of the Apthorp tract in lots No. 6, 7, and 8. He settled here in 1780. The Sherwins, the Pages, the Hackets, the Fields, the Herricks, the Stephen Smiths, had homes on these now abandoned roads. So did John Anthony who had been a sea Captain. I often wonder how he could endure the walls of hills about him when the sea and its wide expanse had been his home.

We will now go down the hill from the boyhood home of C. M. White. The first house was built by Mitchel Faunce Pope, a son of Mitchel Pope who lived on the Pope road. Noah Wood and his son Alonzo both lived here. The house was burned some years ago. Long ago a house stood near this one but further back. It was the home of Caleb and Joanna Tilden whose daughter Ruth was married to the first Noah Wood. Her great grandson A. F. Wood owns a charming silhouette of her which is reproduced here. The Otis Wood house had the walls of the parlor covered with stencil designs and in each of the doors going into the front entry were small heart shaped openings. The most extraordinary hand painted weeping willow with a

mourning woman standing under it, gives the information "That Caleb Tilden died May 16, 1813, aged 67. Joanna his wife June 1817, aged 71. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Caleb was buried on his farm.

Ruth Tilden Wood

A short distance above the Otis wood house a road branches off to the left, crosses the brook and goes up the hill. This is the Pope road. It is only a wet, rutted rough path and as a road it was abandoned by the town in 1827. On July 4th, 1937, we walked up this rugged path, going through brush and climbing over fallen trees, to visit the cellar holes of the Pope and Hammond families who lived there in the early years of the town. The view which is

now shut out by big trees must have been superb. Old roses still grow about the yards. Mrs. Hammond made bonnets for the ladies of the region. Some of the Pope children, who died, are buried near the home. A stone wall is about the little lot and once lilies and roses grew all around these stones. Now life sized trees stand on this land. Only a year ago some of the descendants came back from Wisconsin to visit this hill top.

From the Otis Wood house one can go to the west on the Darling road. For many years a stone chimney marked the site of this home. Going eastward from the Wood place and down the hill, this road comes out on the Woodstock-Reading highway. Where Hattie Cady lives, once lived Oliver Mack. The Mack family with many sons pioneered in the South Parish. There was at least three other houses in this particular section, all of which are gone. Simon Buck and Mr. Cram occupied two of them. Stukely Angel lived in a small house on the south end of the Standish farm. The present Standish house was built in 1842. The Standish family came from old Plymouth. Sanford Wilder, a son-in-law, lived here. The farm is now owned by Dr. Fred'k Kendall of New York and his nephew's family are the present occupants. A cellar hole and lilac bushes across the road point out the home of Dan Niles. Some of the Farnsworths lived here also. The next house towards the Village was built in 1845 by one of the Farnsworth family. Dean Cabot lived here as did Avery Colston. A. F. Wood owns it now and has for quite a number of years. The Blake house was built in 1787 by Jonathan Farnsworth. The foundation stones are white limestone. Mrs. Azubah Burnham, a daughter of Jonathan, lived out her days in this house as

did her grandson, John Blake. The place has since early in the 1770's been in the family of Jonathan Farnsworth and his descendants. A photostatic copy of his deed to this land appears in this book. It is dated 1774 and was made out under the laws of the Province of New York, and the land described is in the County of Cumberland, New York Province. There was no Windsor County at that time. Farnsworth built his first log cabin on the hillside above this house. His second cabin stood where the present corn barn stands. A short distance to the east Ann Farnsworth built a small house in 1861. It is gone and so is she, for she is buried in a small lot back of the Blake Barn. The house on what was the town farm for nearly a hundred years and recently sold, was the home of Stephen Farnsworth, the first settler on that spot. It was built in 1809. The house where Leroy Mounce lives was built by Nathaniel Hammond in 1806. Reuben Slayton lived here many years. He was the father of Madison Slayton, also the father of Hannah who married Hiram Holt. She lived to be over one hundred years old. She was a regular attendant at our church services when Dr. H. L. Canfield was the minister and was always a most attentive and sympathetic listener. She was the mother of Julia Holt who married Noah Wood, Jr. The house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Giles was built by Warren Cottle in 1796. Oliver Bailey owned it later and made a number of changes in it. Hollis Stow and Lucian Morgan both owned it. It has many fine architectural points, especially the front door.

Arthur Wood's house was built by Hiram Holt in 1855. Professor J. J. Lewis lived here a part of the time when teaching at the Academy. His son Leo who was born in

Built by Jabez Cottle. North of the Academy

South Woodstock has been the head of the Music Department at Tufts College for many years. Marshall Worcester lived in this house also. The house north of the Wood place was built by Benjamin Cottle in 1808. Galo B. Ralph lived in it. He married Marcia Perkins, a daughter of Gaius Perkins. A son of this marriage, Edward by name, went West and became wealthy. After his death his father went out to bring back some of his possessions. He shipped two big trunks east; one contained a lot of diamonds, but these trunks were lost with all their contents. A sad ending to great expectations. The Rood house was built in 1852 by Wm. H. H. Slayton. Daniel Johnson and Dr. Ezra McCullom lived here. Dr. McCullom pulled teeth as well as gave medicine. Mrs. Eliab Bridge whose first name was Sandace, was another owner of this house. She was a milliner and dressmaker and lived for a time in one of the brick houses further along the street. It is said that she was quite a handsome woman, but finally lost her mind. Her brother-in-law, Oliver Bridge, lived here. He was still singing in the Universalist Church choir after he was eighty years old. We remember him perfectly. The next house where the Bartels live, in 1860 was filled with students from the Academy. Galen Pearson kept a hotel in this house. Later Hiram Holt lived in it, and he and Mrs. Holt boarded Academy students. Mr. and Mrs. Noah Wood made their home in this house for a good many years. The Clarence Walker house was built by Jefferson Slayton in 1854. His son, Edwin, left his wife there when he went to the Civil War and in that house was born their son, Horace, whom all the present generation in Woodstock knew. The widow of Dunham Perkins also lived in this house.

The first brick house north of the Slayton place was built by Ezekial Pearson in 1826. Moses Kelly who married Isaac Kendall's sister lived here, so did Isaac Kendall. D. A. Gifford once owned it but traded it for the second brick house but he again lived in this one. Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Morgan owned it for a time and then Mrs. Maria Perry and son Clarence. The brick house to the north was the home of Frank B. Standish. The old timers about the village still call it the Standish house. He sold it to Candace Bridge. She sold it to D. A. Gifford. When he moved to the Kedron Tavern he traded it for the other brick house. Wm. Fisher bought this house for $300. It became the property of Mrs. Rutherford. At the present time both of these brick houses are owned by Owen Moon. The little frame house just south of the Universalist Church, was the home of Dr. Bowman. He had a little study north of the church and Oliver Bridge had a cobbler's shop there. This building was torn down after the Doctor's death. J. S. Lee when Principal of the Academy lived here for a time. Mrs. Kingsley retains vivid memories of Dr. Lee. He preached part of the time at Bridgewater in the Universalist Church which burned years ago. Her family lived in Curtis Hollow and attended his services. Her first appearance in Sunday School was an occasion of joy and pride. She had her first pair of kid shoes, and the loveliest little straw bonnet of open work, all trimmed with pink ribbons. She wore over her shoulders a silk shawl folded cross-wise. Her grandfather called her his little Peacock. The Rev. Warren Skinner, one of the founders of the Academy, also lived in this house. The Charles Colstons owned it later.

The house north of the church was built by Dr. Stephen Drew in 1798. After his death his son Henry continued to live here. Henry had a son Francis who was smart in streaks. He knew how to survey and Mrs. Kingsley still has a plan of her place, all neatly drafted which he did. Francis inherited this gift for surveying from his Williams forebears. He was a lineal descendant of Phineas Williams. Andrew Smith and family left their hill top farm and dwelt in this Drew house. His daughter Mary married a son of the Rev. Eli Ballou who was the pastor of the South Parish Universalist Church. Later Edward Atwood sold his farm and bought this house. He and his wife both died in it. It has a very beautiful Colonial front door. The old Benjamin house stood north of the Drew house. The widow Caroline, independent and free spoken, continued to live here after the death of her husband Fred in 1883. She lived till 1905. The house was then taken down and all of her belongings sold. The timbers of the house were used to build a barn back of Mrs. Maria Perry's house. Grandpa Averill had a blacksmith shop north of the Benjamin house. The brick building just beyond the open space was put up by the Ransoms for a store in 1822. It was called the National Store. The date of erection is cut in one of the foundation stones. Richard Mather Ransom did the cutting, his brother Daniel watched him do it. Richard M. and Daniel were sons of Richard, Jr. Son Richard supervised the building of the store. Oliver Willard and his men did the brick work. Silas Brannock carried the brick and mortar. When the building was nearly completed, Richard M. invited all the singers of the region and they had a big sing as a sort of dedication. This was

the third store built by the Ransoms in the South Parish. The clerks in those early years were Richard Mather Ransom, Ezra Wood, Joshua Snow, O. A. Bryant and Daniel Ransom. When Richard Ransom, Jr., died in July 1836, this store building became the property of his son Daniel who made O. A. Bryant his partner, and the store ran under the management of Ransom and Bryant for two years when Daniel bought Bryant's share. Then Charles F. Pearsons was his partner for two years, then Daniel went it alone. Loyal M. Wood took it over in 1842, then Daniel had it once more. In 1848 he failed and the Ransoms ceased to do business in the South Parish.

"In the spring of 1828, Richard Ransom, Jr., and son Richard Mather decided to build a brick house on the site where Esq. Ellis had had a house, tavern and store, part of the old buildings were taken down and some moved back for the shed of the new house and some was moved by Hosea Perry up to the north road beyond Francis Perkins place and there made into a dwelling house. The cellar for the brick house was dug in the summer of 1828. The next year 1829 the house was built, with a front of 47 feet and running back 64 feet. It was two stories high. It was not occupied till the autumn of 1830." Mr. Ransom's family lived here and also kept a hotel. Later, a Mr. Fay did the same and several other people. Just when it was called the National Hotel there is no way of learning but it certainly was in the 1840's. The hall which extended from the hotel to the store was built in 1848 and was called the National Hall. The upstairs contained a large auditorium where dances, concerts, parties, and public exercises by the Academy students were held. It was

used with much frequency. Below this hall were open spaces where horses and carriages could find shelter. Each open space was arched, the whole effect was pleasing and when it was torn down, a chorus of lamentation ascended. When Melvin Holt became the owner of this hotel property he called it the Kedron Tavern. When he sold it, a rechristening took place and it became the Colonial Inn. In 1939 it became once more the Kedron Tavern, and was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ballard.

We must return to the south end of this main street and give our attention to the houses on the right hand side. The delightful story and half brick house owned by Miss Lucy Davis was built probably by Madison Slayton who lived in it many years. Mrs. Larnard Kendall moved there after selling her farm. Where the Knitting Mill is located there used to be a blacksmith shop where both horses and oxen were shod. E. C. Billings owned it. Back in the earlier days it was owned by Daniel Ransom. The old shop was built of brick which Mr. Billings took down and put up the frame one. When Daniel Ransom owned it, it had a wing which was moved to Mrs. Kingsley's house for the kitchen. One pane of glass has the name D. Ransom cut on it twice. Galen Pearsons lived in the house north of the Knitting Mill. It was built by Richard Sterling in 1805 and was a cabinet shop. Sterling moved it to the west side of the road and then to the east side but on a different site. On the original spot, he erected a brick house which later became the property of James Slayton, who conducted a tavern. He was succeeded by a Mr. Fay. The house finally burned. The cabinet shop was made into a dwelling house. John Mackenzie had this for his home

The Kedron Tavern with the National Hall and the Brick Store

several years. Mrs. Kingsley's house was built by John Arnold Cottle in 1811. A large hall was on the second floor. The walls of this room curve at the upper part, the curves becoming a part of the ceiling. At each corner of the room, fan shaped decorations are on the ceiling. A fireplace furnished heat when needed. The musicians had an elevated seat. An invitation to a dance in this hall has been preserved by Mrs. Kingsley. It was for the lass who became her mother-in-law. It reads, "Wish you a Happy New Year, Miss Cinthia Hayes

Come if you please, ye gentle youth
Attend a Dance and be all mirth
Virtue unfolds to every heart
That Attend and Take a part.

J. A. Cottle's hall Dec. 29. At Three o'clock P. M. South Woodstock 1831. Managers D. Ransom, W. H. H. Slayton, C. D. Perkins, G. Bailey." D. Ransom sent her this invitation. A charming painting of Cynthia in her red dress when she was five years old, is in this interesting house which has walls nearly two feet thick. It has a fine stairway, a very beautiful mantel and choice cornice.

On March 4th 1869, the following item appeared in the Woodstock paper:—"For Sale in the beautiful village of South Woodstock and within thirty rods of the Green Mountain Liberal Institute, the place was known as Capt. Bailey's Stand. Consisting of a Brick dwelling house and store house and shed. About 4 acres of land. Also a general assortment of Dry Goods and Groceries and hardware. Terms Easy. Amos Washburn." Oliver Bailey owned this house which had both store and post office in it for many years. He died in 1857. Gustavus Lake bought it of the

Kedron Tavern
Before the connecting dance hall was removed

estate. Later Amos Washburn bought it of the widow Huldah Lake, and in 1878 R. H. Kingsley became the owner. In May 1900, Melvin Holt bought the contents of the store and he took over the post office. Both of these were moved down to the old Union Store.

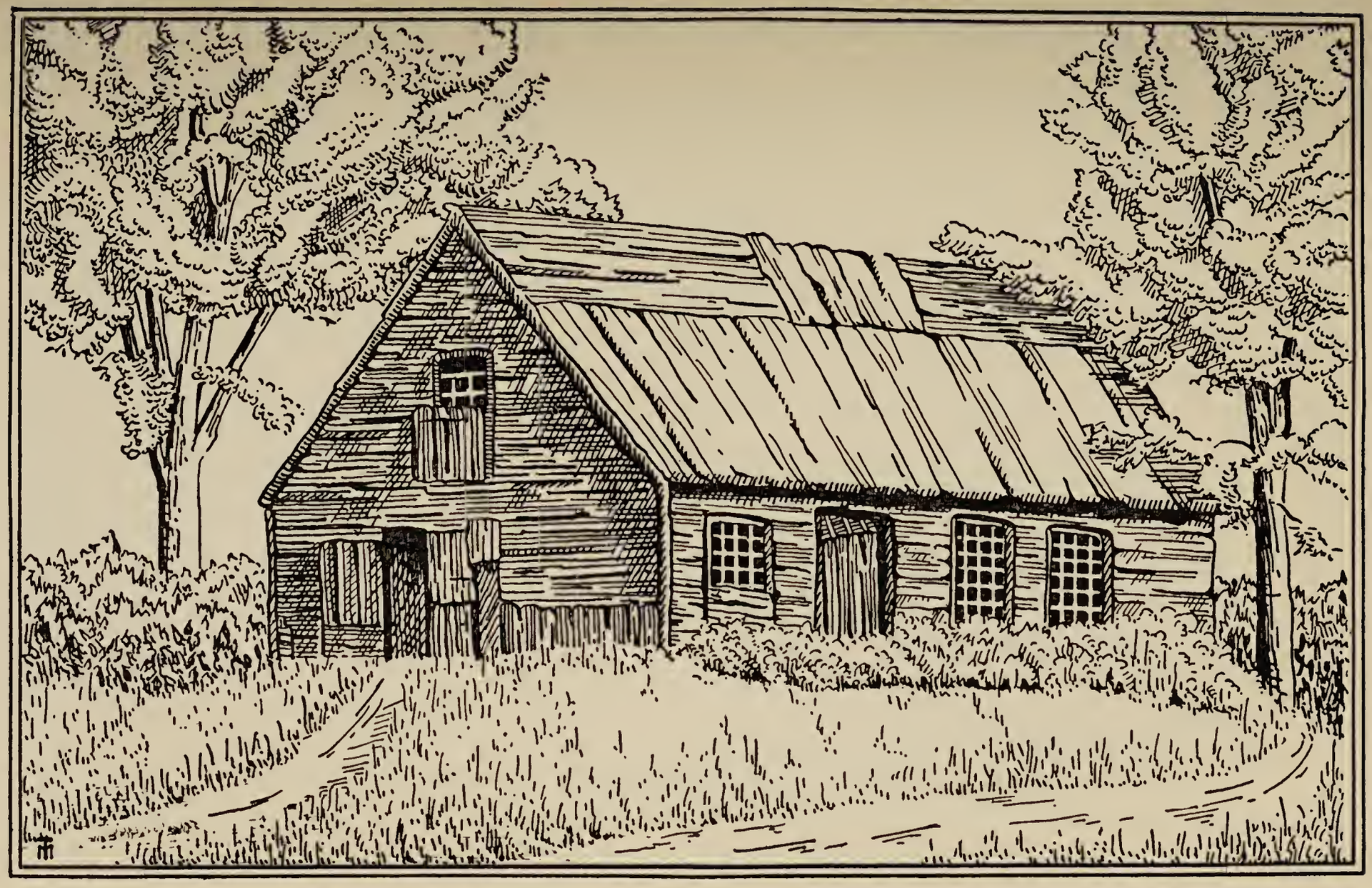
The first house to the north was owned by Richard Hayes' widow. She was Susan Drew Lovell, the widow of Samuel Lovell when she married Richard Hayes as his second wife. She lived upstairs and Benjamin Bigelow who was part owner, lived down stairs. He had a blacksmith shop across the road. A unique house in the South Village, among the many which are excellent architecturally, is the house just south of the old brick school-house now used as the Grange Hall. It was put up in 1810 by Otis Peck who bought a strip of land along the brook which extended to the millpond. The millpond reached at that time to the dam by Mrs. Kingsley's bridge and all of the meadow where her barn stands was under water. Where did Otis Peck come from? The inside of this house has been changed so often that all good points are destroyed. Peck's deed to this land was recorded in 1811. George Fletcher lived here many years and died in this house in December 1902. His widow continued to abide here until she went to Cornish Flats to live with her daughter who had married a Wardner of Reading. Tom Barker and family also lived here.

Where the Academy stands and the two brick houses, was once the land of Jabez Cottle. He had a large farm in this location. The brick house just north of the Academy was built by J. Cottle in 1812. He had built an earlier house on this hill in 1785. This was taken down about

1903, having been used for its original purpose and then as a sort of shed. When in a partial state of dissolution it was painted by J. Gladding, an artist who spent two or three years in the South Village. A picture of it appears in this chapter. Alice Fletcher's house was built by her great-grandfather, Gaius Perkins, in 1831. Her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perkins lived here, also her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Friend Fletcher.

On August 19, 1869, the announcement was made "That Joel Slack has sold his farm in South Woodstock containing about 80 acres to Fred P. Kendall, Larned C. Kendall, Henry Walker, and others by whom it is reserved for Mr. Drew the father of Edward A. Drew, principal of the Institute. Mr. Drew intends to make it his permanent residence. The purchase is in interest of the School, price paid $5,000." Joel Slack's home was used as a students' home. When J. J. Lewis came to the Institute and brought his bride, they lived for a time in the two upper rooms in the south end of this house. Mr. Lewis was the first person to make moving pictures of the Passion Play at Oberammergau and to travel about the United States showing them. He did this in Woodstock in 1903 and was our guest. We took him to this brick house, then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walker. He visited those rooms and sat in silent meditation there.

Just north of the Kedron Tavern was a house occupied by Carleton Morgan, a most eccentric person, wholly a law unto himself. He was a horse lover and always had a few excellent animals which he fed many times in the twenty-four hours of each day, a handful of oats and a dab of hay, and so the process went on. He did not raise



Built by Jabez Cottle. Now gone

enough hay for them, but that did not trouble him so long as his neighbors had hay. He never undressed at night but he lay on an old wreck of a sofa, with his lantern lighted at his side. When the village was asleep, Uncle Carleton with a bag on his back, strolled about to the barns and generously helped himself to the hay he needed. He also went on to Long hill and cut whatever hay he wanted. He owned quite a famous stallion, Kentucky Pilot. Pilot developed some temper. When the late Edmund Page as a boy was working at the Kedron Tavern, he was awakened by piercing screams from old Carleton's barn. The investigation showed the old man under Pilot's manger where he had crawled to escape the fury of the horse. He had entered the stall on one of his night feeds when the attack was made. Strenuous measures were used to rescue him from this dangerous place. After Carleton's death, Kentucky Pilot was sold and had the ignominious job of hauling a tin pedlar's wagon about the country side. Morgan owned a beautiful dapple gray mare which was never broken to a harness. She had a long mane and a tail that swept the ground. He loved this animal and kept her as a source of delight.

This house was built by Billy Brown in 1831. When Morgan had finished his earthly career, the house was about finished. The process was completed by some enterprising youths of the South Village. The next house to the north was built in 1806 by Daniel Perkins. The Thad Fletchers lived in it many years. Hattie Cady, their daughter, sold it a few years ago to A. F. Wood whose son Ben occupies it. Going straight up the hill, the first house on the left which Edwin Slayton owned for years, was built by

Uncle Carleton Morgan carrying to his barn his neighbor's hay

Kendall Emerson in 1802. He sold it to Ephraim Allen, and Emerson moved to Ohio. Beyond this farm on the right side of the road Frank Perry lived. His father Daniel built the house in 1795. When the Woodstock map of 1832 was made, people by the name of Wood lived in these two houses. Lemuel Shaw lived near this hill road. Continuing on this road we reach the Murdock home where Lemuel, a son of James the 1st, settled. In front of the Murdock place a road goes west and enters the Fletcher hill road. This is the road on which the J. Howlands lived. Ichabod Perry settled on the north side of the road and his descendants for three or four generations lived there. Magnificent lilacs bloom on the old place. Benjamin Mack lived beyond him. Then a Taft family. On the south side of the road beyond the Howlands, lived Stephen McClay, his son Stephen and Gustavus. Judah Mack owned the next place. The views on this road of the mountains are most beautiful. Returning to the Murdock place and going north, the house on the left was built by the Slocums. It is Mrs. Temple's home. On the right, lived Deacon Phineas Thomas, a prominent citizen in his day. The Bishops owned the next place of which there is no sign, then the Lovells and across the road the Peltons. The whole district was called for the Peltons whose house stood near the succession of school buildings erected here. These Peltons were the ancestors of Wm. Mack of West Woodstock, his mother was Maria Pelton who married Alonzo Mack, a member of that early Woodstock family. Maria's father was Jonathan. The house standing now and occupied by Herman Reed, was built by Wm. Pelton, a brother of Maria, on or near the site of the earlier house. Across the

road the Lovells lived and to the north of these houses were the Lothrops, which is sometimes spelt Lathrop. February 22, 1797, John and Betsy Lathrop signed a deed by which they sold some of their land to Beal Farnsworth. Beal was a son of Oliver Farnsworth who had settled in this section and owned over 400 acres of land. His deed was recorded in June 1773. He became a town official in 1774. Several town meetings were held in his house as it was centrally located at that time. He died in November 1785 and his widow married the Rev. Elijah Norton and they lived on her share of Oliver's property.

An old road crossed to the east from the Pelton School to the other hill road. At the point where it entered this road, Jonathan Kingsley built his plastered house in which he and many of his descendants lived. He came from Woodstock, Conn., with his son Jonathan as surveyors for the Church tract and he settled here in 1773, building a log cabin on the land south of the old road just mentioned. I have seen his family Bible in which is recorded the births of his children. He died January 1835 and his wife Elizabeth Gray died in December of that same year. His plastered house was long since clap-boarded. Mrs. R. H. Kingsley and husband began their married life in this house. Jonathan's brother Ebenezer settled on land just south of him and brother Nehemiah south of Ebenezer. A chair with Nehemiah's initials cut on the back has been presented to me. Joseph Wood bought the Ebenezer Kingsley land in 1785 and settled on that road. His son Samuel succeeded him there. This son was an important man in the town. There were other sons who became scattered about the country side.

The Randalls, led by Nathaniel the first, came from Pembroke, Mass., where he was a ship builder. He settled near the Reading line beyond Abiah Rice. In 1825 he with some of his family moved to Bristol Valley, N. Y., where descendants still live. Nathaniel the second lived just below the Wood place. His big brick house burned a few years ago. He married Betsey Brown in 1801 and one of the nine children was Nathaniel the third, who was the grandfather of Donald Richberg of this present time. The charming stone house on the cross road which is now partly closed, was occupied in 1832 by Dea. Andrew Smith. He bought that land of Phineas Sanderson. Billy Brown built the stone house which stands south of the Randall farm. Where did Thomas Brown, Wm. Wyllys, Micah Holmes, Nathaniel Pool, and Mr. Stetson live? The region was thickly settled. This Holmes family must have belonged to the Oliver Wendell Holmes line for the same first names are found in each family. Our questions about these many families go into the Silence and no answer returns.

Going back to the Pelton School and climbing the hill to the west, on different levels are found the sites of two houses and many old apple trees. Tom Perry lived at one of these places. Going up the long abandoned road, the cellar hole of Jonathan Mack's home is passed. The old road went through a glacier cut and joined the road which still comes out at the reservoir. The south end of this road is impassable. On Sunday afternoon August 29th, 1937, we tramped this abandoned road and when the pinnacle was reached, we looked out on the mountains to the west, south to Ascutney and east to beautiful hills. We gathered catnip and penny royal, the only time I have found it in

Vermont. The bogs were covered with the bloom of lady's tresses, harebells and the flower of Parnassus.

On the hill road ending at the reservoir, in 1832 lived four families. The farm to the south was owned by a Mr. Mower, the next one by a Cox family, the next by Levi Blossom, and the last one by S. Thomas. Levi Blossom's deed is dated 1804. His son Charles later lived where Mr. Thomas lived and there his daughter Mrs. Laura Blossom Townsend was born in 1853. Samuel Washburn lived there for a number of years, as did Grace Gilbert Holt and her husband. The Blossom place was sold to Calvin Sherwin who left his home on Long Hill. Calvin was the father of Orlando, who became a well known and much loved Doctor in Woodstock. The Blossom place is owned by Mr. Edward G. Bailey.

Near the site of the present schoolhouse in the South Village Seth Sterling in 1788 had a blacksmith shop. Later he moved down the Kedron and continued his blacksmithing near his house in the valley. Thomas Christie, Sr., lived on this common in a house built by Elisha Perkins in 1802. Foster Taylor must have occupied the same house, which he converted into a tavern. He hung out his Tavern Sign in 1818. Dr. Buckman lived here as did the Royls-tons. This was quite a fine house. It was torn down to make way for the school. The chimneys were standing when we came in 1902. They were huge affairs with many fireplaces both upstairs and down. A glimpse of this house is seen in the picture which shows the Kedron Tavern with horses and sleigh in the front.

The Paul Kendall house was built in 1800 by Richard Ransom, Jr., at a cost of $800. George Lake was the master

builder. The cellar under this house is fourteen feet deep and so carefully was the wall laid up that not one stone has ever had to be replaced. This house and farm were sold in 1841 to Oliver Kendall whose descendants still live there. Across the road from this house, was built the second Ransom store in the South Parish in the year 1794. This is quite a remarkable structure. It has an overhang along the whole length towards the west which is plastered and for 136 years this plaster required no repairs. A large stone standing at the front end of the building was used as a mounting stone. In some sections of the country, they are called upping stones; one stepped onto this stone and then onto the horse. After the third Ransom store was built in 1822, this building was painted green and made into a vestry. It went by the name of the Green Vestry. In it were held religious services and other public meetings for some years, then it was made into a dwelling house and here lived Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Clark. They wove rag carpets. She was most expert in making good designs and people came from long distances to get their rags made up into carpets. Mrs. Clark knew all the family histories in the South Parish but she was kindly and discreet and her knowledge led to no difficulties. Her daughter married a son of Dr. Buckman.

Ansel Cowdrey came from Hartford, Conn., early to Woodstock and built his log cabin beyond where George Fullerton now lives. When he harvested his first wheat, he carried it on his back to Springfield, Vt., to be ground, going down one day and returning the next day. He moved later to the Village and lived where Mr. G. E. Thomas lives. The house burned and his baby boy's life was saved

Kedron Tavern: Home of Dr. Buckman at right and then the Ransom home

by tying sheets together and lowering him from an upper window. The Cowdrey shop stood east of the house. After the fire it was moved onto the site of the house and made into a dwelling house. In 1860, a Mr. French, a house painter, lived here. In 1874 Elliot Thomas bought the place and since that date it has belonged to the Thomas family. Going east on this old road, the invisible site of the first Ransom store is passed. It was twelve feet square, and stood near the Drew Mill. The log cabin of the Ransom tribe was built upon the hillside out of sight of the brook. The house where Ernest Towne lives was the property many years of Ed. Perry. He lived there and then rented it to Charles Town and then returned to occupy it again. Daniel Ransom built the stone house in 1855. Wm. Bailey lived here. It is now the home of Bert Hoadley. Going down to the main road, the house by the brook was built in 1830 by Asa Whitaker. Ara Thompson lived in it and his widow stayed there a long time after his death. The Fallons and Melvin Holt were both owners of it. Taking the hill road nearby, the first house was built by Henry C. Hoadley; the stone house was built by H. H. H. Rood in 1856. The next house is not an old one. It was built by George Rood. In 1832 a house stood on the south side of the road, owned by Abner Beckwith. The house at the junction of the roads was built in 1826 by Abel Slayton. Isaac Parker lived here till he moved to the Village. Monroe Perkins and his family have owned this farm for a good many years. Eleazer Parker of Mansfield, Conn., settled in this region in 1782.

Returning to the main road and going towards the South Village the first house is on the site of the home of Joseph

Melvin Holt, owner of Tavern on Porch. Dr Logan of Woodstock with cap, and J. Foster Rhoades, once owner of Maplewood

Built by Richard Ransom. Owned by the Paul Kendall Family

Sterling. Probably the frame of this house was put up in 1782. The outside until recent years was covered with plaster. Mrs. Elias Logan, a granddaughter of Sterling lived in this house. South of the house, once stood another one and between them a road climbed the hill and passed the brick house built by Amaziah Kendall. The brick house opposite the old mill was built for the occupancy of Dr. Lee, when he was Principal of the Academy in the 1850's. The old Powers house near the mill was built in 1817 but it burned and the one there now is of recent construction. The old house was built by Levi Washburn.

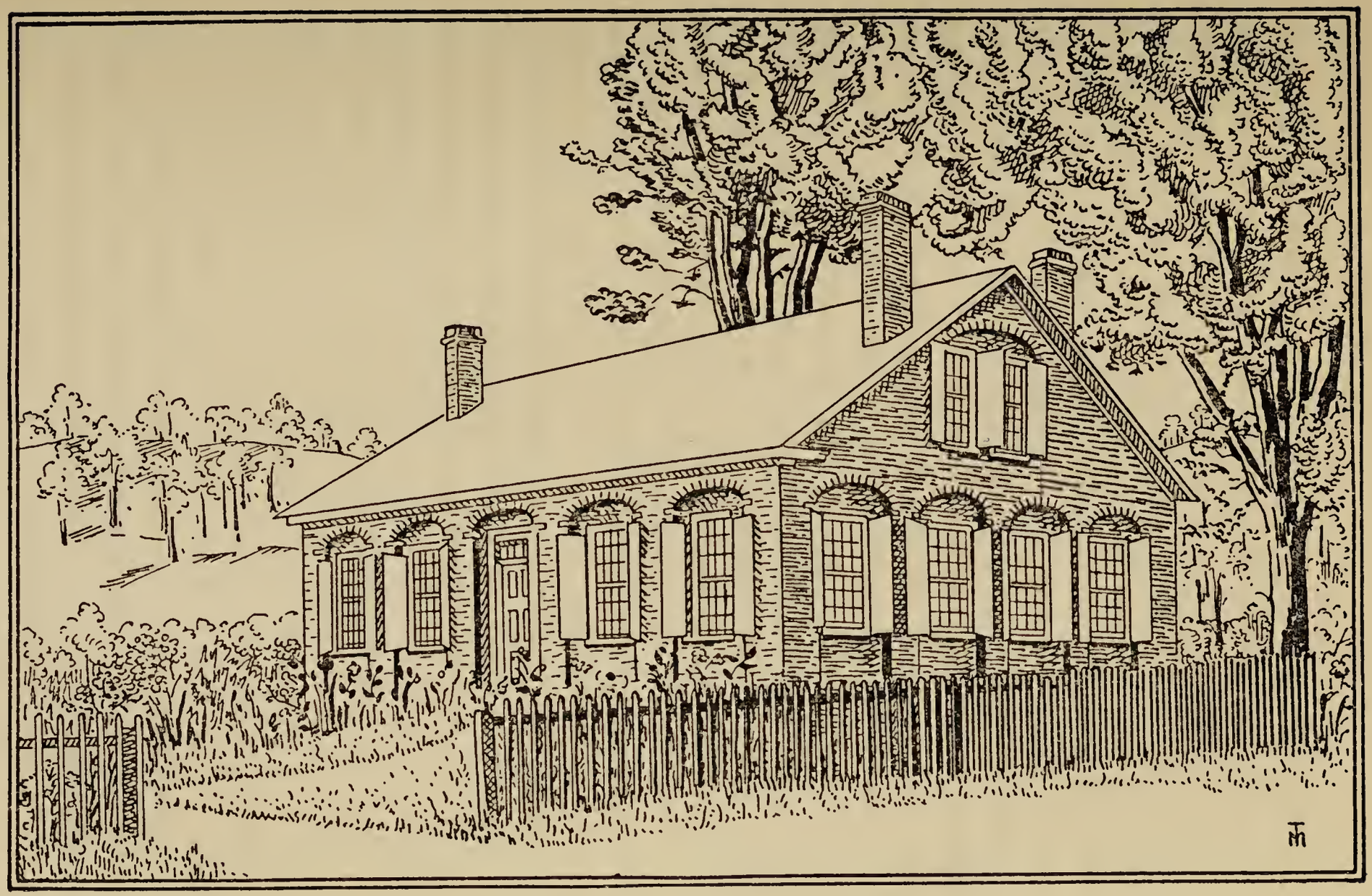
Near the ancient tomb north of the hotel a road goes off to the west. The first house has been much changed. It has a wonderful stone walled cellar, such as the Paul Kendall house has. Wm. Minor Lord sold this land to Charles and Monroe Mackenzie. The deed is recorded in 1828 but the stone gate posts have the year 1827 cut on them. Cut into the stone is A. D. 1827 C. M. M. and again A. D. Deeds were not always recorded the moment the land was sold. Often a year passed before they got onto the books, but Monroe Mackenzie lived here and friendly relationships were maintained with the Perkins family on Scott hill for Mrs. Cyrus Perkins was his half sister. The Weedens lived here later and then the Marshalls bought the house and tore out the brick kiln in which Monroe Mackenzie fired the pottery he made. One of these jars is pictured in this book. The house once had a beautiful Colonial doorway. This now is the summer home of Mrs. E. W. Belcher. The house on the left was built by Wm. Minor Lord in 1806. Marshall Jaquith and Richard Hayes both owned it. In recent years it has been much done over. A comfortable

One of the few jars from the South Woodstock Pottery

house stood on the right just where the road goes up the hill. The Lovejoys lived in it. Mrs. Lovejoy distinguished herself by being one of the very few women who belonged to the list of "Individuals" at the Chapel. From this fact, we know that she was a woman of convictions. Emanuel Morgan lived here, so did Albert Stearns and family. The house has burned.

Following the road up the hill to the right, one reaches the home of Anne Bosworth Greene. The map of 1832 has the road to this house, going over from the lower part of Fletcher Hill on the west and ending on the hill road above the Slayton farm to the east. It was a Pent road. Oliver Holt lived here at that time. In 1773 Amasa Delano settled on Lot No. 2 Grout tract. His deed is dated March 30, 1785. Richard Hayes and Jabez Delano were witnesses. Delano lived here a few years and then moved to Lot No. 6 in the third range of the Apthorp tract west. In 1792 he gave this farm to his son Jabez and he moved to Windsor. Thomas Jefferson Slayton bought this farm in 1837 and repaired the house. He sold the barn to Benjamin Hathorn who lived here many years, as did his son-in-law, Mr. Hopkins.

When one reaches the Fletcher School region, entry has then been made into the Cottle neighborhood. There were so many of them that it was called Cottle Town. Joseph and Sylvanus led the van. They came from Martha's Vineyard. Then came John and Edward. Jabez and Warren settled nearer the present village as already mentioned. While they lasted, they owned much land and were decidedly influential. The name has disappeared and no descendants are left in our midst. The large brick house where



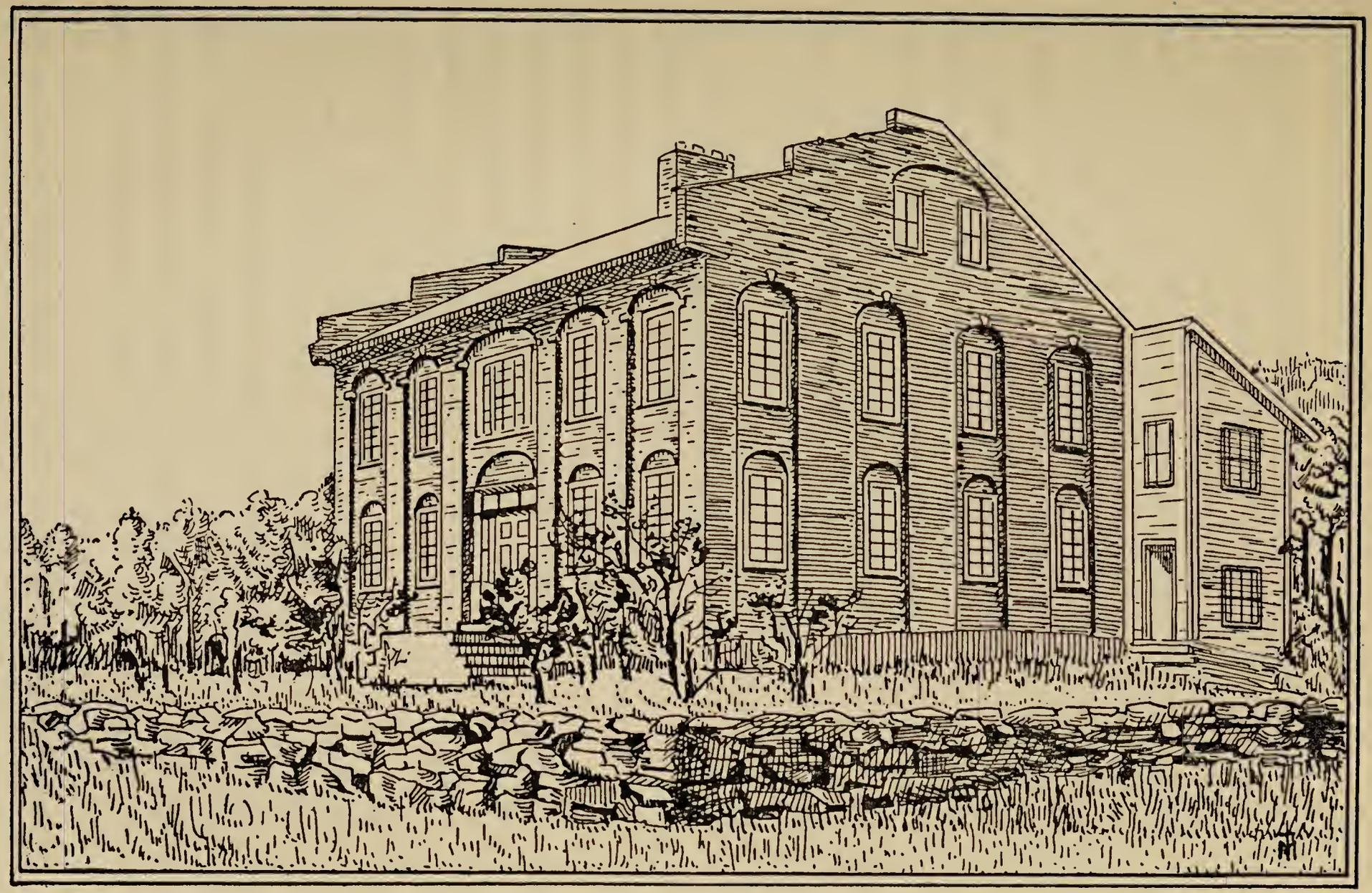
Brick House built in the 1850s

the Bagleys lived was built in 1817 by Salmon Hoisington. His ancestor, Asahel Hoisington was one of the very first settlers in this region, he bought this land in 1771 from his brother Joab who built his cabin where the Savings Bank stands at the Green. Asahel sold out in 1802 to Salmon and left for York State. B. T. Hopkins lived in this house as did a family named Carlton. Carlos Adams bought it and it was his home many years and then it once was occupied by one of his daughters and her family. All this region was settled early and I propose to give the names of a few of the Pioneers and the date when they became Vermonters, without attempting that most complicated job of giving their exact location which involves the reading of the early deeds, and the study of all land transactions. My own life is too short to do it and the general location is sufficient for the casual reader. Ephraim Allen bought land and a house in 1786, John Mack, 1791, John Hammond of Rochester, Mass., 1779, Nathan Avery, 1789, James Perry of Middleboro, Mass., 1787, Nehemiah Mack, 1782, James Cobb of Middleboro, Mass., 1777. Over on the north side of Meeting House Hill, Ichabod Perry located in 1777, on that same road, which finally comes out at Lincoln Bridge. Benjamin Mack of East Haddam, Conn., settled, 1786. Next was Stephen Paddock, 1794, then Wm. Paddock, south of him, 1780. In this neighborhood were the Brewers and Hunts. The Hunt deed is dated 1776. Wm. McClay's farm was near the foot of Fletcher Hill. The Greens and Edward Church were nearby. McClay bought his farm in 1779 of Elisha Hunt. Stephen McClay, a son, lived on the road with the Perrys and Macks and Howlands.

Going back to the Fletcher School was the James Fletcher house built in 1820 by Foster Taylor. Passing over the road to Townsend's Corners, the Bushrod Fletcher house was built by Daniel Perkins in 1806. Two houses stood further on in 1832. One of which was occupied by the Myricks, and right at the Corners lived E. Royce, later the Townsends. South of these Corners lived the Adams family in a brick house which stood on the right side of the road. Across the road lived one of the families of Fields and later the Blossoms. Going from the present Erwin Fullerton house, is a short road where lived in 1832, the Stows and Oliver Kendall. His father Jacob Kendall had lived here. It is now the home of part of Isaiah Fullerton's family. A Cummings family lived on this road also. Across the hill from this house to the south on a back road which is entered a short distance above the Standish farm lived the Barneses. Anthonys and Blossoms were successive owners of the same property.

Passing through the village to the south and going up the hill one comes to the Upwey Farm. The first house on this site was built by Sylvester Edson Sr. in 1806. The place was sold to John Lake and the house burned in February 1815. It was rebuilt the following summer. Ira Kendall moved into this house in 1840 and he was succeeded by his son Larned whose home it was till his death when Mrs. Kendall sold the farm. The Edsons settled in 1782 just over the Hartland line but in 1798 he built a frame house on the hill east of the Upwey Farm. Isaac Kendall the direct ancestor of Larned, came to Woodstock in 1780. He built a frame house in 1790. Here he and his wife lived and died. This frame house was occupied by his son Ira. Larned

Kendall sold this farm in 1868 to Thaddeus L. Fletcher who lived there many years. It is now a part of Upwey and the house with various repairs still stands. Abraham Kendall settled on the next farm in 1779. His descendants from Jason Kendall to Kendall Hoadley lived on it. After Mr. Hoadley's death, the place was sold to Mrs. Seymour Ballard. The road forks just beyond this house, going up the steep hill, two roads branch from the Main road, one to the left, the other to the right. On the one to the left is a stone house which was the home of Putnam Burk who was the father of only twelve children. All of whom attended the Ralph School. The house was probably built by his father Ebed Burk for Putnam's name does not appear among the record of deeds. Avery Colston lived here. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parker now own it. Taking the right turn, the road goes through the woods, swings around a partial circle and joins the Main road by the Ballard place. Old timers in Vermont called that driving around the "gool." I spell it as the word is pronounced, which without doubt is incorrect, but it conveys the manner of speech. The first house is a brick one. Here lived Benjamins and Holts. The next house is frame and in it have lived Bridges and Pages. These two farms are owned by Mrs. Katharine M. Snell. Mr. Snell gave me the following items about them which are worth preserving. King George II in 1767 made a grant to Levi Willard and Associates, lands embracing these tracts. Then Willard sold much of this section to Charles Apthorp. There were four ranges of lots each consisting of one hundred acres and each numbered from east to west. In 1782 Daniel Davis of Harvard, Mass., sold some of this land to Jacob Holt. Joshua Holt



The Tom Boyd House

sold to Uriah Holt and then Uriah and his wife Sarah sold to Jacob and Jacob sold to Nathan and he to Jacob Jr. It was the year 1809. All of these Holts lived in Ashburnham, Mass., and they certainly had a grand time selling to each other. Some of them are now living on this confiscated land. In 1817 Nathan and Oliver Holt sell the farm "our father formerly owned" to Jacob Jr. The next year Jacob Jr. and Nathan sell to William Bridge who had married their sister Susan. This sale covers the present Snell home. Financial difficulties ensued and the property passed to L. G. Bigelow. Edmund Page lived here from 1853 to 1869. There were more money troubles and a good deal of shifting ownership until 1901 when Mrs. Snell became the owner.

The next house is a large brick one built by George Lake. Just when he built it I do not know—but he died in it in 1816. His son Daniel succeeded him. Later Edward Atwood owned the farm and then the Nevins. It is now the property of Mrs. Thomas Boyd. Now we are back to the Jason Kendall farm, and must go up the hill road to the neighborhood settled by the Slayton and the Ralphs which was School District 17. Daniel Ralph was the first settler, coming in 1775. He lived where Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jaquith have their home. By the Ralph graveyard, a road once passed to the west which entered the Reading hill road near the top, on this road Samuel Slayton settled in 1780. Joshua Slayton settled nearby Samuel in 1782. Cellar holes and a fine spring tell where these houses stood. David Slayton erected his cabin on this hill, having made his first purchase in 1773.

Near the top of Slayton Hill a road once turned to the

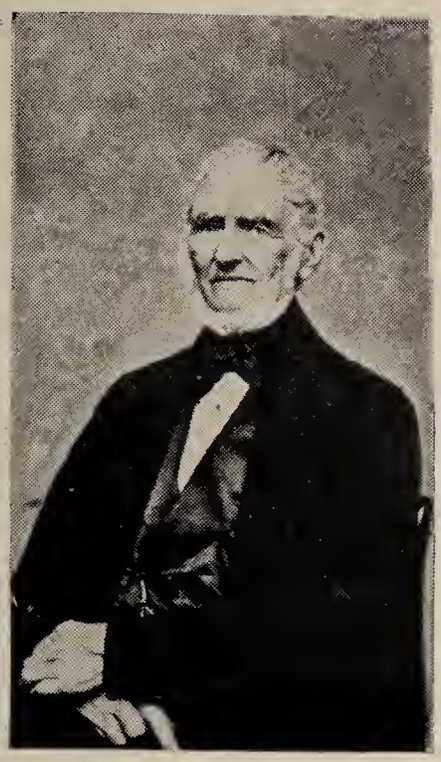
left and came out near where the Robert Parkers lived. There is a cellar hole on this short road where lived James Murdock who came to Woodstock in 1780 and was the father of only twenty-three children. Pink roses still bloom about this ancient cellar hole. Holts and Morgans also lived on this hill which is sometimes called Morgan Hill.

Now we shall travel down the Kedron Valley. In all of the old records and on all of the old maps, this brook which we call the Kedron bears only the name, South Branch. The students of the Academy thought that it should have a dignified name and some of them proposed that it should be called the Jordan which seemed fitting as Mt. Pisgah was nearby, but a handsome boy, the son of a minister, knowing something of Bible lands and having an ear for euphonious sounds, proposed that it should be called the Kedron. Mrs. Mary Ann Kendall and her sisters placed their approval on this name and they, being influential, the name Kedron stayed and we all call this lovely winding brook by that name. The lad who named it was Almon Gunnison who is mentioned in the chapter which tells about the students at the Academy.

Chance and change are busy ever. Man decays or moves away and his foot-steps like the sands are shifting every day. This thought is deeply impressed by the happenings in the Valley of the Kedron. The Woodstock map of 1832 gives the following names of residents from the limits of the Green up to and including the Christie Farm. Beginning at the north, the family names are as follows: Swan, French, Brewster, Taft, Blackwell, Richardson, Royce Christie. These are all on the west side of the road. On the east side three roads climb the hills. At the upper end

of the first one, lived Mr. Taft, on the main road, the Sterlings. Up the second hill road, Smith, Pelton, Bingham, Sanderson, Houghton. At the end of the Pent road beyond the Smiths lived Simeon Dunham. Up the third road were the Shaws and Ladds and Lords. C. M. White gave me the names of the people living in the Valley in 1860. As far as possible I shall give the dates of the building of these houses, the names of the people who lived in them in 1860, and some of the later owners. The stone house was built by Wm. Bailey Jr. in 1857. Harvey Dutton lived there many years. It is now owned by the Aycriggs. The next house was built by Wm. Bailey, Sr., 1850. Lathrop Vaughan lived in it in 1860.

H. H. Daniels and Otis Waite both have owned this property. It belongs now to Mr. Francis Fay and is occupied by his farmer. The small one story house was built in 1830. It was the home of A. M. French and then Edward Kenyon with his brilliant and handsome wife Nellie. She was one of the high lights of Spiritualism and went about the countryside preaching her beliefs. I own the photograph of her from which the picture was made, which appears in this chapter. She is dressed in the gay and voluminous style of the 60's. Going up the hill road a short distance, the house of Charles Carlisle was reached. He was a famous grower of strawberries. All the land in this immediate section was the Ephraim Brewster Farm which remained in the family until recent years. The house on the road was built in 1789 but has been much changed by repairs. Ephraim's wife Marjory outlived him many years. She was almost one hundred when she died. Her obituary notice said "She had seen the wilderness blossom as the



Gaius Perkins

Otis Wood

Nellie Kenyon

rose. She was a pious excellent woman. Our life contains a thousand strings and dies if one is gone; Strange that a harp of a thousand strings should keep in tune so long." F. A. Trudo now lives on this farm.

The house on the east side of the road was probably built by Seth Sterling who moved there in 1793. His son William succeeded to the ownership and later two grandsons, Frank and John. Frank stayed in the old house and John lived in the later built one, just south of the original home. Henry Morgan's father and mother lived in the older house, which is now the home of Mrs. Chapin and Melvin Houghton owns the other house. The little house by the tumbling brook on the west side of the road was built by Jonathan Styles in 1804. Reuben Douglas was there in 1860. G. E. Thomas' mother was born in this house. Several families have lived in it. It is now the home of Floyd Holt. We approach the Dunham Hill road, the house on the east side was the home in 1860 of John Bryant; the one on the south was originally a shop, the Ira Dutton house was not built till 1862. There may have been some sort of house there earlier. We will not go up the Dunham Hill road till later. John Blackwell still lived on the west side of the road a short distance beyond the hill road. His name appears frequently on the day books of the old stores. He bought things for his daughters repeatedly. His hillside home has disappeared, also the memory of his family. Where Harry Baker lives, the first man to settle was Capt. Killam, he sold to Joseph Perry who built the large two story house in 1798, intending to have a tavern but his dream faded and he sold very soon to Ezekiel Fitz and he sold to Dr. Lysander Richardson, who moved from the

Green and began to live here in 1800. His well known son Chauncey kept the place till his death in December 1888. Chauncey Richardson was greatly interested in the town history. The old files of papers in the Norman Williams Library contain many articles by him of historical value. All educational projects appealed to him. He liked everything that gave intellectual stimulus and he was a participant in all such endeavors. The house across the brook was moved there from another site. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kingsley lived here and many other people. Going up this hill we come to the home place of Capt. Elisha Lord who came from Lyme, Conn., and settled here in 1788. His son succeeded him and lived on the same site till his death in 1873. I remember the wreck of an old house further up the hill which had been the home of John Douglas, a brother of Reuben on the brook road. George Washington Colston took over the Douglas Farm in 1872. Now all signs of the house are gone and these farms belong to Norman Williams. The Christie house which was made of brick and stood well back from the road on the road to the west was erected in 1828. The Christies had two sons, both of whom died in the 60's. One of them was a senior at Tufts College when he passed away. His classmates came to South Woodstock to attend his funeral which was held in the Universalist Chapel. They reached White River Junction by train from Boston and rode in sleighs to the South Village. The snow was deep and the weather very cold. One of the classmates was Dr. Carvell of Somerville whom we came to know as physician and friend. Several times he told us about that difficult journey. Dean Cabot lived in this house. When we came to Woodstock it had been

burned and its shattered walls were picturesque against the background of hills. A little white house was built there after many years. Now a handsome house has been erected by Mr. and Mrs. Fowler.

Passing up Dunham Hill the first farm was a part of the land owned by Ebenezer Dike, often spelt Dyche in the old records, and he sold it to Arnold Smith in 1805. His son Oliver succeeded him, and he sold it to Ward Richardson in 1858. Oliver during his occupancy built the present house. The farm is still owned by the Richardson family. Hatzel Pelton in 1802 came from Connecticut and bought land from Dike up beyond the Richardson place. At the end of the old Pent road to the right above the Smiths, the Dunhams settled in 1780. Various generations of them lived there. The old house disappeared long ago. The present owner is mentioned elsewhere. Tracy Bingham lived where the Henrys live on the road up the hill. He built the house back of it for his son Elwin. Dunhams and Houghtons have lived in it. On up the hill we reach the old home of James Sanderson, who was succeeded by his interesting and most picturesque son Benjamin, about whom a book could be written, and he was succeeded by his two sons-in-law, Morgan and Cary. The Morgans lived in the old house which was built probably before 1794. A wing of it was moved back to the end of the road and the Carys lived there. The old house was painted red, the good old red made from Brandon clay and whale oil. It is only white now. George Seldes has owned it and Mrs. Goodridge owns the Cary house. Israel Taylor Houghton who settled on Biscuit Hill in 1793 eventually through various movings got unto this ridge. His sons were Plu-

tarch and Cyrenus, the latter married into the Dunham family. Plutarch settled over the ridge and Cyrenus stayed on the west side.

James Harwood who came to Woodstock in 1769 lived in his cabin where Mrs. Fred T. Kidder owns a hill house, Harwood's son-in-law John Call with his brother Isaiah lived on this hillside. John knew Washington while in the Revolutionary service. I found a newspaper item of January 9, 1873 written by Isaac Parker, a South Parish man who had gone to Illinois to live which reported to the home folks that Osman Call, a son of Isaiah Call, who had settled in Knox Co., Illinois, had just died. Other early settlers on these hills were Clothier Pryor, Benjamin Howard, Jonathan Wait, John Hayes, Francis Hendrick, Nathan Avery.

For a good many years a Lyceum was maintained in School District No. 14. The meetings were in the school house. They had debates, discussions, sings, spelling bees. Mrs. Eva Dunham Chandler had many memories of it, and Sidney Richardson knew about these gatherings. Some of the families actively connected with the undertaking were the Darlings, Dunhams, Morgans, Houghtons, Binghams, Kenyons, Sterlings, Christies, Thomases, Chauncy Richardson, Mrs. Betsey Soule and her mother Mrs. Pelton. They were people with active minds and did their own thinking and created their own entertainments. They knew neither movies nor radios.

I own two letters and a dissertation on the causes of the Civil War, written in August 1866, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They belong to a romance connected with this special neighborhood. A correspondence was begun

through some Spiritualistic paper, between this man in Milwaukee and a woman of the Kedron Valley. Letters must have passed with great frequency. There were discussions on the subjects then arresting people's minds. Photographs were exchanged and commented on. The woman is addressed as "My Green Mountain Friend." Out of this correspondence, a marriage resulted, though he confessed that he had been attracted by at least two other women. The man was an inventor. I own three official documents which he received from the U. S. Patent Office, they are all signed and sealed in the most legal manner. One of these is dated July 10, 1855, the inventor then lived in Oswego, N. Y. This patent was given for an excavating machine. One is dated October 2, 1860 and the place of residence was Cincinnati, Ohio and a patent was received for a device for printing names on newspapers. The third one is dated 1867 and is for a numbering machine. The drawings for these machines are carefully executed. Later on this man in conjunction with two others invented the Remington typewriter. I have received a letter from the Remington people, giving the history of this invention.

Two children were born to this couple neither of whom were well balanced, but were bright in streaks. The man died early and the widow and her children returned to her old home in Woodstock. A very inadequate settlement was made by the firm which manufactured the typewriters and with the passing years, the poverty of the family was extreme and there was real suffering. Kindly friends made me their messenger of relief and we did what we could to ease the situation. She was an excellent botanist and

pressed flowers were given me when I carried to her the very necessities of life. She wrote a beautiful poem for us on our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. She wrote poems for other people. The daughter lay ill for years in a tiny room and when she died, the worn out mother lay down on her bed and said to me, "I am so weary." She could not attend the funeral in the school house just across the road. In one month, she was given her release, and I know she went to that Paradise where the roses and lilies bloom and pain is no more. When we see the huge excavating machines of the present day, and know of the addressing devices in printing offices, we wonder why this man never profited from his inventions. When a few years ago there was some recognition of the inventing of the Remington typewriter his name was published in the papers with the names of the other two men. The tragedy of the whole situation is difficult to understand. His name was Samuel Soule and her name before her marriage was Betsey Pelton.

AN OMITTED CHAPTER

Which repeats some facts already given.

A chapter omitted from the Dana history contains the following facts which Mr. Dana collected principally in 1872. On the road from the Green up the South Branch, Major Swan owned the first farm. A small wooden house on it was occupied by a tenant. About 1815 Major Swan built a brick house where his tenant lived until 1839, when he sold the farm to William Bailey, and in 1857, the brick house, having been torn down, William Bailey Jr. built the stone house. The next house William Bailey Sr. built in 1857. The little house which is fast going to pieces near

where the road goes up the hill to the east, was built by Apollos French in 1830. The next house on the west, was built by Ephraim Brewster in 1789. The story and half house on the east side of the road, was built by Seth Sterling. The next house is not so old. The one on the west by the dashing brook, was built by Jonathan Styles in 1804.

Going up the Dunham Hill road, the wreck of a house on the right, was built by Amos Pelton in 1841. The Richardson house was built by Oliver Smith in 1852. The next house above was built by Hatsel Pelton about 1804. Tracy Bingham in 1842 built the one back on the hill to the left. The Sanderson house was built by Benjamin Sanderson in 1809, an earlier house had been somewhere near that one. A wing had been built on this house which in 1842 was moved to the south and made into a comfortable tenement and occupied by Henry Morgan. When it was still connected with the Sanderson house, it was lived in by Eber Cory who had married Metracy Sanderson, one of her sisters married a Cary, the other one, Henry Morgan. Just over the hill top to the east Cyrenus Houghton built that house in 1847.

Getting back on the South Branch the so-called Dutton house to the south of the hill road was built by him in 1862. The Chauncey Richardson house was built by Joseph Perry before 1798 for in that year, he sold the farm and moved away. It was not quite finished at that time but Ezekiel Fitz who bought it, made some improvements. Across the road by the arched stone bridge, that house there was moved onto that site by William Washburn.

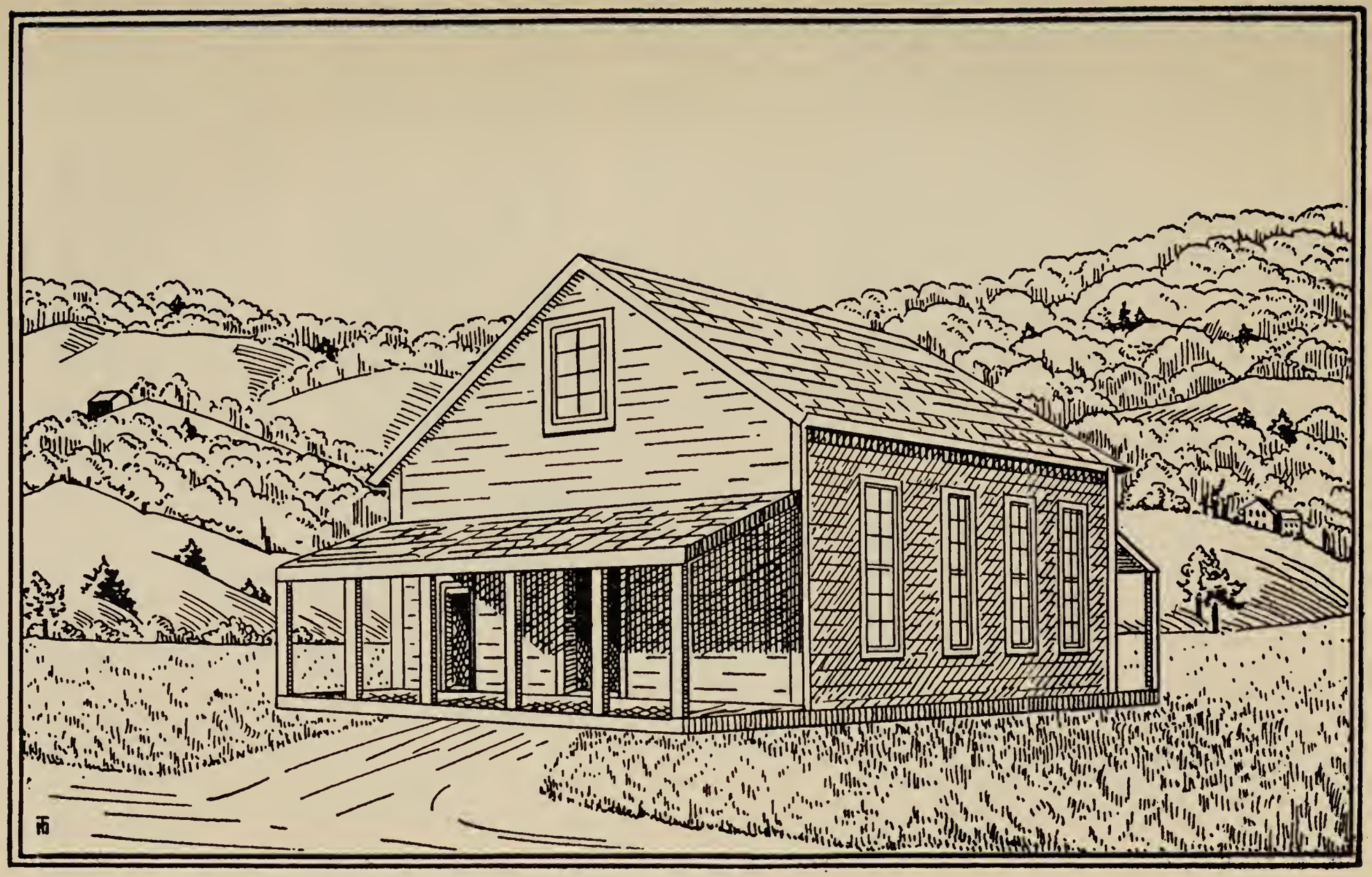
Going up this hill road, the house on the left was built by Elisha Lord about 1795. Getting back to the main road,

the first house south of the Richardson place, was built in 1847 by Elijah Royce. The Thomas Christie house was built in 1828. Ira Whitaker built the little house near the brook in 1830. It has had so many additions that the original house is not visible. Passing up the hill road to the left, Henry Hoadley built the first house. The stone house was erected in 1856 by H. H. H. Rood, and the house at the junction of the roads was built in 1826 by Abel Slayton.

Going up the road to the right near the Whitaker house, the stone house was built by Daniel Ransom in 1855, the frame house beyond, was built by Edward Perry. Between these houses was a tomb. (The present generation knows nothing about it.) An old house stood where the Kendall house is located, which was removed in order to erect the present one. It took two years to build this house which was not finished till the fall of 1804. A lovely house stood just west of the Kendall house which was built by Elisha Perkins in 1829. (The Hotel and the store building are well described elsewhere.) Alice Fletcher's house was built by Gaius Perkins in 1831. The old frame house which stood just to the east of it, was built by Jabez Cottle in 1785. The brick house to the south was built by Jabez Cottle in 1812. A house just west of the flour mill was built by Levi Washburn in 1817. It burned a few years ago and another house stands there now. Joseph Sterlin built his house in 1782. His granddaughter, Mrs. Elias Logan, lived there many years. Dana does not mention the little brick house across from the mill. The house across the road from the Chapel was built by Otis Peck in 1810. The house with the store was built in 1813 by John Arnold Cottle. The Galen Pearson house was built by Richard Sterlin in 1805.

Gaius Perkins' home: Alice Fletcher owner

It was first a cabinet shop. It was moved from the east side of the road to the west side and back again to the east side, and then he put up a brick house which James Slayton bought and used as a tavern. This burned. The shop was made into a dwelling house. Dr. Drew built his house about 1798. The National Hall was built by Daniel Ransom in 1842, alas, that it was torn down. The Eliab Bridge house was built by Edmund Page in 1842, an earlier one had stood on this site, built by Elijah Harlow about 1796, the cabinet maker. The next house to the south was built by Captain Ezekiel Pearsons about 1826. On that site Dr. Drew had built a house in 1796 and had lived there before building his two story house on the hill. He sold the first house to Captain Ebud Burk and he sold it to Edward Hayes. Captain David Mack eventually married Hayes' widow so he owned this house. In 1817 it burned. William H. H. Slayton built the white house in 1852. Another house was on this site, built in 1814 by Richard Sterlin. It burned in 1838. (This location is where Clarence Walker lives.) Galo Ralph's house was built by Benjamin Cottle about 1808. Marshall Worcester's house was built by Hiram Holt in 1855 and the Hollis Stowe house was built in 1796 by Warren Cottle. Oliver Bailey also lived in this house, and made many improvements. The town house was built by Stephen Farnsworth in 1809. Reuben Slayton's house was built about 1806 by Nathaniel Hammond. Mrs. Azubah E. Burnham's house by her father, Jonathan Farnsworth in 1787. (This is the John Blake place.) Ann Farnsworth built a small house east of this one in 1861. Jonathan B. Farnsworth in 1845, built the Avery Colston house where A. E. Wood now lives. John W. Standish built his house



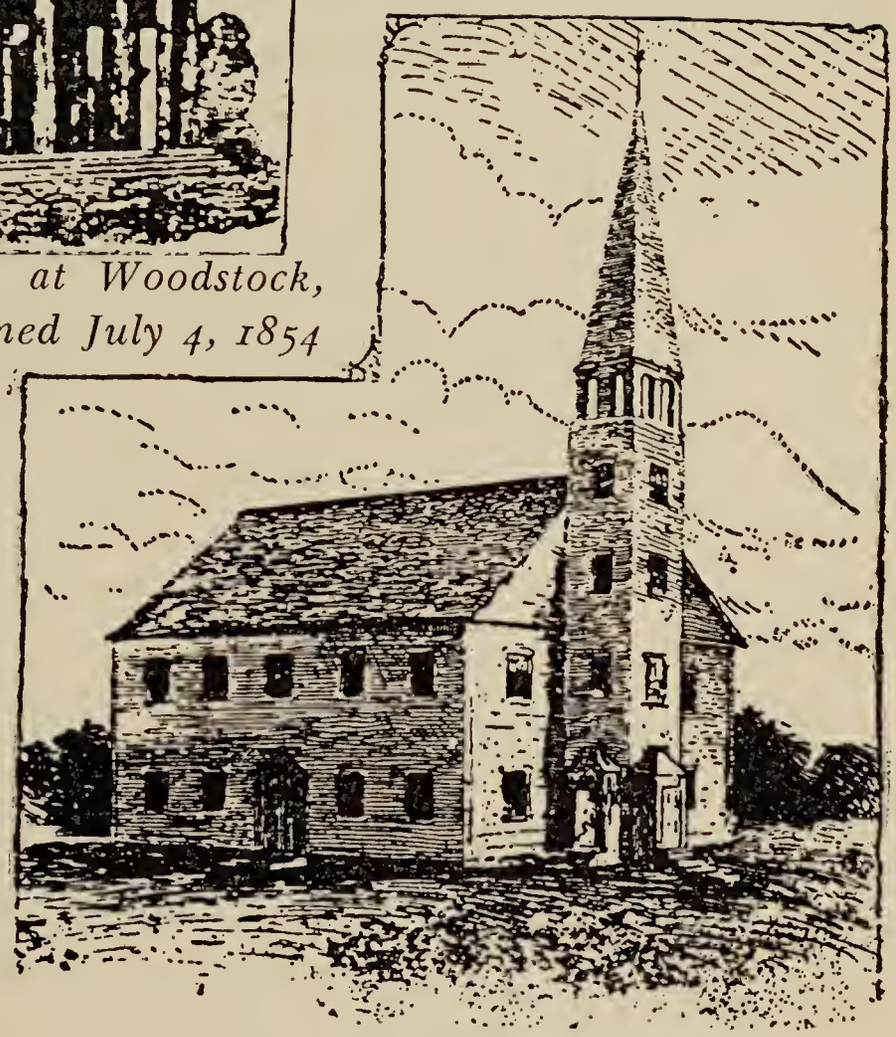
Congregational Meeting House—built 1792

in 1842. This is the house with the columns beyond the Woods. The Ira Kendall house was built by John Lake in 1815. This is the Upwey Farm. It is a bit difficult to follow the Dana story of the houses for he skips about with considerable agility, and also leaves out some of the places. We must go back to the Paul Kendall region. The house now lived in by the Marshalls, was built by Lieutenant Richardson Ransom for a store. Now go up the hill road past the antiquated tomb, the first place on the left was the Edward Slayton farm. The house was built in 1802 by Kendall Emerson who sold it to Ephraim Allen. Emerson moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. On the east side of the road, Daniel Perry built his house in 1795. Franklin Perry succeeded him. Barker Crooker built a house further up this hill in 1810. Silas Perry occupied it later. Edward Perry's house was built by John Ransom in 1802. Just north of the hotel was Carlton Morgan's house built by Billy Brown in 1831.

Going up the hill road past the Paul Kendall house on beyond the stone house, near the graveyard stood a fine brick house, the home of Eliza Randall. This house was built by her father, Nathaniel Randall in 1812. It was burned. The frame house at the fork of the roads, was built by Joseph Wood in 1792. His well-known son Samuel lived out his life here.

Now we will go to the so-called Fletcher School region. The first place which Mr. Dana mentions, is the Salmon Hoisington house built in 1817. This is the two story brick house beyond the school. Travelling westward, there were two Fletcher homes, one belonging to Bushrod the other to James. Bushrod's house was built about 1806 by Daniel

Old courthouse at Woodstock, built 1793; burned July 4, 1854



The West Meeting House
Built 1789. Torn down in 1832

In these two buildings and the Congregational Church at South Woodstock, the town meetings were held alternately many years

Perkins and the house of James was built by Foster Taylor near 1820. The house in which George Fullerton now lives, was built by Jacob Kendall. He and a Mr. Cummings took up a hundred acre lot some time in the 1780's and divided the land between them, each building a log house and then a frame house. Jacob Kendall was succeeded by his son Oliver who was living here in 1832 and the Stowes then lived on the Cummings farm. Oliver Kendall was succeeded by R. A. H. Kingsley, then Levi Blossom lived here and later I. T. Fullerton became the owner. The Cummings house was taken down in 1867.

The first house on the right going toward the Fletcher School now owned by Mrs. Belcher, in 1872, was called the Oliver Bridge place; the house was built by Cyrus Allen in 1802. The Frank Wood house was built by William Miner Lord about 1806. Richard Hayes lived here, also Marshall Jaquith. A little house beyond this was built by Billy Brown and occupied by C. B. Coleman and later by Carlos French.

Going to South Village, Dana gives this information, which is a bit puzzling at the present time. Having looked up deeds and dates without much illumination, I quote the paragraph word for word. "Hiram Holt's house was built by Oliver Bailey in 1811, but the house built by Bailey forms the back part of the present house. The front part was added afterwards by Captain Ezekiel Pearsons who exchanged places with Bigelow, and made these additions and improvements to the house for the purpose of converting it into a tavern. The Gifford house was built by Captain Alvah Wilson in 1827. The John Standish house was built by Frank Hemenway in 1834. (These are

the two brick houses south of the Chapel.) The Frederick C. Benjamin house was built by William Ellis in the summer of 1812. (This was torn down years ago. It stood just north of the Dr. Drew house.) Sullivan Cady's brick house on the hill was built by Amaziah Kendall in 1817. Richard Kingsley's house was built by Jonathan Kingsley, the year his son Elisha was born which event the Town Records say took place the 4th of March 1789. Isaac Parker's house was built by Abel Slayton in 1829."

The last three houses are not in the Village but were out on the hills. Several houses are not mentioned by Mr. Dana, but this chapter of his is an excellent supplement to the other descriptions of the South Parish homes. Dates may not always agree, but this omitted chapter and the one relating to the purchases in the Grout tract are entirely too valuable in this study of the early days of the South Parish not to be preserved in this record.

The effusion which closes this long chapter was written by Mrs. Mary Smith Ballou, a brilliant South Woodstock woman, in the days when much excitement prevailed in regard to the building of the railroad to Woodstock. Feeling ran rather high and the South Parish held decided opinions as to their personal worth and importance, and felt that they were being just a bit slighted.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK

On Kedron's banks, in a fair vale,
  Where land is good for tillage,
And where there's no such word as fail,
  Here stands our pleasant village.

Nestled among the dear old hills,
  High points the old church steeple,
And we have schools and shops and mills,
  For we're a thrifty people.

Though we came forth from Noah's Ark,
  Our deeds are none the darker,
And though we boast not of a "Park,"
  We have a Captain Parker.

We have a host of honest men,
  A good and worthy preacher,
And in our choir is Benjamin,
  The famous singing teacher.

We've Christie, but he's feeble now,
  He's passed through many a sorrow;
They've left their mark upon his brow,
  But there's a bright tomorrow.

We've Slaytons and we've Kendalls, too,
  God bless them for their labors,
In all good works they help us through,
  And Ralphs, the best of neighbors.

We've Pearsons, Holt, and many more,
  Whose hearts and hands are willing
To do as they have done before,
  And give a nimble shilling.

We've Aldrich, our Professor new,
  Who's lately from "Tufts College."
He strives to lead his scholars true,
  High up the hill of knowledge.

We've Brewster who lives on a hill,
  He goes by Russell Morgan,
He had our thanks and our good will,
  In church he plays the organ.

We've Fletcher, George, who rings the bell,
  We've some whose hearts are merry,
We've Courtney who shoes horses well,
  We've Bailey and we've Perry.

We've little ones to cheer us on,
  You'd know it by their prattle;
And we've a "Bach," McKenzie, John,
  Who often buys our cattle.

And we have men of every age,
  Here in our place, God bless her,
We've Weeden, Fisher, Ladd and Page,
  We've Logan and we've Messer.

The tribe of Smiths has not increased,
  We've Joe Smith—not the Mormon,
But son of Andrew Smith, deceased,
  And brother, too, of Norman.

Our Bridges! How our hearts rejoice
  To give them friendly greeting,
Of one, we're glad to hear his voice
  In all our Sunday meetings.

We have not here a cotton mill,
  But we have what is better,
For Clarke is weaving carpets still,
  And does it to the letter.

Our good old friend, Mecorney here,
  Whose heart you ne'er can harden,
Just beats the village every year,
  In caring for his garden.

For first class board you will do well,
  (You can not get it cheaper,)
To call at the big, brick hotel,
  Where Morgan is the keeper.

Ed. Slayton makes the best of sleighs,
  And if you'd only ask it,
He'd make you one the Queen would praise,
  And Reed as good a basket.

And you can get here in our store,
  All things down to the plaster,
The Office is just through the door,
  And Washburn is Postmaster.

We boast not of a sculptor grand,
  Our Powers is a Miller,
You'll find him always at the stand,
  A staunch and upright pillar.

To build a bridge we have, you know,
  No poor and low-lived "paddy,"
And Thomas is not old nor gray,
  Though some now call him Daddy.

If our old Ark should sail away,
  And we should want to catch her,
Just get a team 'most any day,
  Of Gifford or Jim Fletcher.

In a brick house near Johnson's door,
  Where bloom the pinks and roses,
Of worthy men we have one more,
  And Kelley's name is Moses.

And though we thrive we are not vain,
  We boast not like "Green" fellars,
Who have the railroad on the brain,
  And see such "green umbrellas."

Now we have told you of the men,
  From here almost to Cady's,
They're very wise and good, but then,
  They're nought beside the ladies.

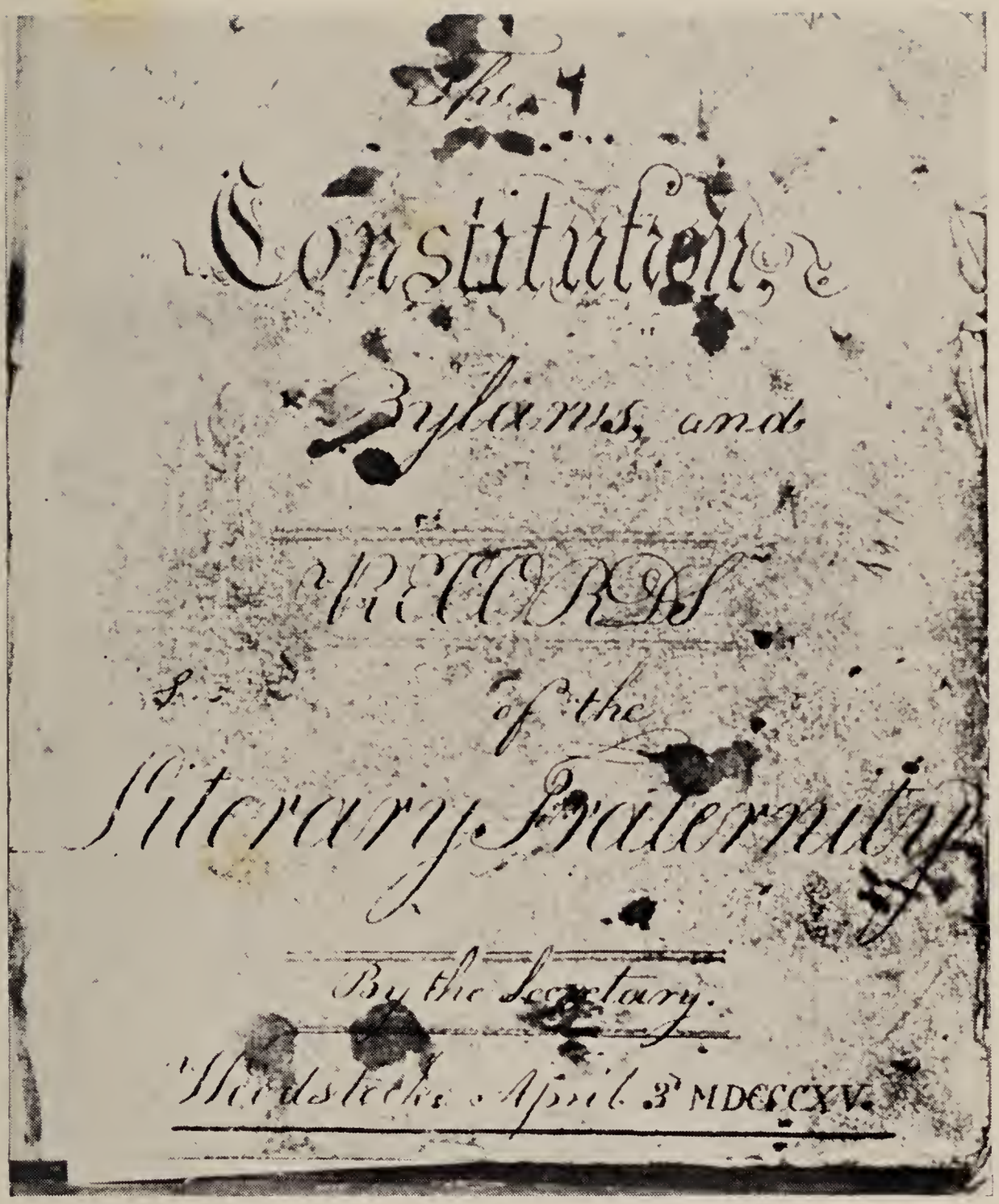
CHAPTER V

The Literary Fraternity

MIRABILE DICTU! Just to know that in this year of our Lord 1937, one hundred and two years after it had ceased to be, there should come to light two of the five record books of the Literary Fraternity. As I write the five are piled up by my side. For the most part, the handwriting is wonderfully clear, the ink once black is a soft brown, the pages are yellowed, the decorations and flourishes in which some of the Secretaries indulged are entertaining and the minutes and the Constitutions which were secret, oh, so very secret in those far off years, are mine to read and to pass on to you as far as space permits.

Dana's Woodstock history says that "A Literary Fraternity with Willard Bowman as secretary played an active part in the South Parish for a time and then passed away."

Under the leadership of a small group of young men in South Woodstock, who met on January 14th, 1815, there was organized the Literary Fraternity. A very formal constitution was adopted to which were added amendments and by-laws, all of a stringent nature. The meetings were to be secret, many formalities had to be observed. Absence, tardiness and failure to perform the parts assigned, were subject to fines. Continued neglect of duties, report-



The
Constitution,
Bylaws, and
RECORD
of the
Literary Fraternity

By the Secretary.

Hardstocks April 3rd MDCCCXV.

Title Page of the Constitution

ing the meetings to those not belonging, meant expulsion. The quality of Mercy had been completely strained out of the constitution and by-laws. Many of the members had been born under the old Blue laws or had the essence of them thoroughly ingrained in their very souls. The result of these inhibitions meant rigid and severe terms in their rules and regulations and penalties for the most part were enforced.

The declaration of the purpose of this Fraternity declares it to be "To improve in Useful Knowledge, to exercise the judgment and promote social virtues." The first officers were:—D. Howland, president. J. W. Barber, vice-president. C. Fullerton, secretary. O. W. Drew, critic. The president appointed J. W. Barber and O. W. Drew to debate. L. C. Smith to write a composition. R. M. Ransom to speak of The Stage. Henry C. Hammond, Elon Farnsworth and Frederic Ransom were members of this enterprising group though not present at the first meeting. The father of the Ransom boys lent the prestige of his influential name by becoming an honorary member. By the year 1820, thirty four members were enrolled. Now the fire works began, for some members had failed to observe the rigidity of their oath of secrecy which involved keeping absolutely secret all the activities of the sessions. The oath or rather Affirmation as it is called in the constitution reads in this wise:—"You solemnly affirm upon the honor of a Gentleman that you will not make known out of this society, anything said or done herein, or pertaining hereto, nor will fully hinder its beneficial proceedings in any manner whatsoever." The constitution had various revisions. By the changes in 1829 the Affirmation read, "You sol-

emnly affirm on your honour, that you will diligently and zealously promote the literary pursuits and objects of this Society as set forth in the constitution and by-laws of the same conforming yourself there unto so far as may be consistent to your ability under the penalty of expulsion."

Rather elaborate trials were held for these cases of expulsion. One member was always appointed to speak for the accused. He could speak for himself, if he so desired. One member spoke for the Society, acting as a prosecutor. As early as 1818 John Anthony was accused of ungentleman-like conduct, and that he had boasted that he was second in command in the Fraternity and he said the members questioned his authorship of the articles he had read. He was accused of telling the secrets and had said that the speeches were trivial. At the end of the trial, the yeas and nays were called for by the president, L. C. Smith, who "very ably and feelingly announced the sentence of Expulsion." This is most entertaining. Anthony was a retired sea captain who had settled in the Vermont hills. He had been accustomed to command and to have obedience. No doubt whatever that many of the long, elaborate and often speculative debates wearied his sea trained mind and to him, they were trivial and not salty.

In November 1820 this resolution was introduced: "Whereas the constitution of the Literary Fraternity has been set at naught and trampled upon in a willful and malicious manner without any specious pretext whatever by a member living in the vicinity, the following charges are brought against him." In short, he did not attend the meetings and promote the interests of the organization so he was expelled. I have stood by the cellar hole of his home,

without first being notified of his impeachment and time trial; having the privilege of making his defence.

Art. XX.

The trial of officers shall be before society; and of others before the President in society.

Art. XXI.

No part of this constitution shall be amended or abolished, nor shall there be any addition to it, but by the concurrence of three fourths of the members present, in a regular meeting.

Names of Signers.

Glen Farnsworth
Henry C. Hammond
David M. Clay
Frederic Ransom
David P. French
Pliny Doubleday
Rufus Fullerton
Daniel Howland
Jonathan W. Barber
Leonard C. Smith
Charles Fullerton
Mapheus Ransom
Oliver W. Drew
Ora J. Paddock
Ira Wood

Part of the Constitution and signers of The Literary Fraternity

a beautiful location. He was an excellent farmer and became the father of a group of brilliant children. His name was Andrew Smith. Justin Howard was tried in December that year "For the violation of his oath and willfully and feloniously neglecting to perform the parts assigned him," so out he went as a member. Who he was, I know not. Henry Drew was expelled but finally reinstated. Henry's father was the well-known Dr. Drew who practiced medicine for years in South Woodstock and built the colonial house just north of the Universalist Church. His mother was Elizabeth Williams, a daughter of Jesse, some of whose descendants still tread our soil. Henry was a respectable person but he had failed to attend meetings and perform some parts.

The most extraordinary expulsion was that of James Slayton. James was an out-standing citizen. He was one of the founders of the Library in 1797. He became an ardent abolitionist at a later date, but in 1821 he was expelled from the Fraternity for the violation of his oath, his refusal to perform parts assigned him, absence from meetings, and speaking derisively of the Society. He was not found guilty on all the charges but was expelled on some of them. This expulsion was startling to me for James Slayton was one of the sturdy men of the South Parish.

It is very easy to understand why Pliny Doubleday who had his name changed to plain Day, was expelled. He was a brilliant youth but lacked the fundamental principles of character. The County Jail housed him for a period and he chose the wrong road of life. Ira Wood was expelled because he beat up his wife; "And frequented places of low repute, to wit, Distilleries and Taverns and other

places of debauchery and drunkenness, becoming intoxicated and demeaning himself in a brutal manner." Of course he was expelled and the sentence was made eternal and everlasting in good old Calvinistic theology style. "He was debarred forever for entering as a member." Makepeace Ransom, whose full name was Royal Makepeace Ransom, was tried for failing to light the room in time for one of the meetings. Being a Ransom, he stoutly defended himself at the trial. He felt that the rights of the minorities were trampled on by the majorities and minorities should always be respected. He and the prosecuting officer argued the meaning of the constitution and disagreed on various interpretations. He admitted that he had not lighted the candles at the designated hour, but said that he was then attending to some important business for the Society and he lacked the power to be in two places at the same moment. The trial involved prolonged and heated discussions but when the yeas and nays were called for the vote was unanimous against his expulsion. Good for Makepeace. He quite rejoices my heart.

It is most interesting that the members faced their problems and always endeavored to have fair trials, but they did not hesitate to bring delinquent members up to their full duty. Their constitution was their rock of refuge and strength and by that they held their trials and passed sentence. They were courageous, strong minded and independent and their names represent the pioneer families of the South Parish. Their meetings for the most part were held on Saturday at early candlelight. They bought candles at the stores of R. M. Ransom, E. Wood, and E. Miller. The Ransom store was the famous institution but Wood's

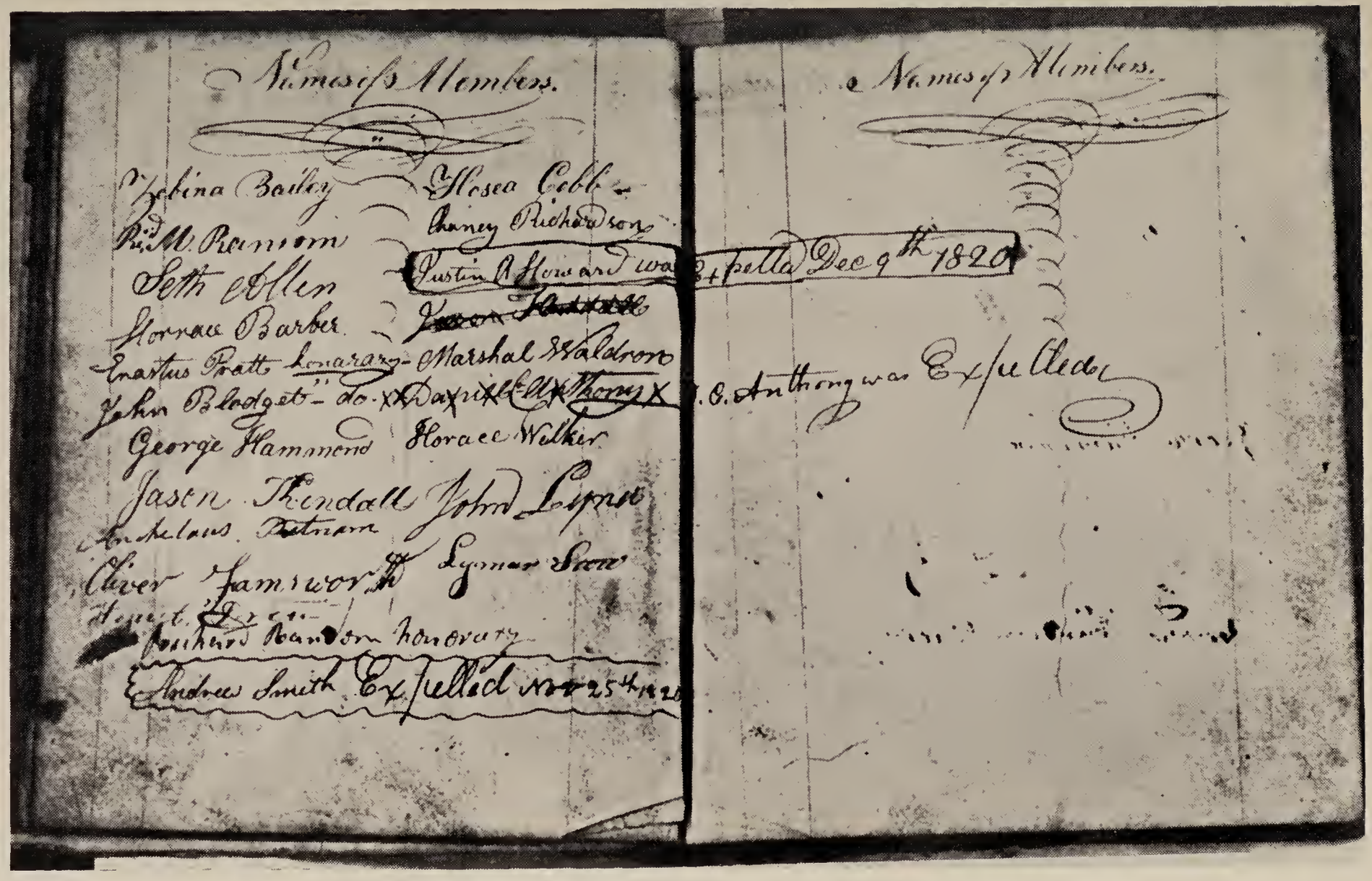
and Miller's are wrapt in oblivion. They bought paper, usually six sheets at a time, but once they became expansive and got one half of a quire which cost twelve and one half cents. One item says Mr. McKenzie sold them one half cord of wood.

For a time they held their meetings on Sunday. Sometimes there was no quorum and the records report adjournment; the weather was bad or the farmers very busy with their crops. Occasionally they met in the "Green Vestry" which had been the Ransom store. Sometimes the meetings were held in the study of Mr. Ransom's house, now and then in his counting room and a few times in the store. The system of fines was elaborate. Two cents for tardiness, four cents for absence, four cents for failure to perform. Frequently these fines accumulated which made their collection difficult and on rare occasions they were rescinded. The initiation fee was twelve and one half cents. A critic was always elected who had to pass judgment on all productions. He was guided by the following Key, 1st. Error in spelling, 2nd. Error in Pointing, 3rd. Error in Parsing, 4th. Error respecting Capitals, 5th. Errors not mentioned above. Had one of his duties been to pass upon the reports of the Secretaries, his job would have been increased for they contain many of the aforesaid errors, even those under article 5.

Every meeting had a debate; those participating were called "Gentleman Disputants." There were also recitations, orations and original productions. No debate could deal with religion or politics, but having read many of the subjects, it is evident that they got pretty close to them at times. The eternal woman question furnished

subjects for debate in various forms. This was debated, "Does the genius of males generally by nature exceed that of females." Written in the records by some indignant woman who had peeped "No, you fool." Here is another subject, "Are female minds susceptible of as great improvement in science and literature as those of males." The minutes say "This subject was ably and coolly supported on the affirmative and contested on the negative and after a lengthy and interesting debate the yeas were 4, nays 5, therefore decided in the negative." Something like the Supreme Court decisions with which we are all familiar. This particular meeting lasted to such a late hour Saturday night, they finally adjourned "For fear of intruding on the Sabbath and each parted with the other with a smile upon his face." Another woman debate: "Is female education as important as male"; again, "Ought a female to share equal with a male in division of property." It was decided in the affirmative. "Is the education of females as important as that of males." This subject had been debated a few months earlier but it would not down. So the dear men are at it again and the decision is for the education of the females. What an awful word female is! Here is a gem, "Are the pleasures of matrimony greater than those of celibacy." Another, "Have women more influence over men than money."

These men debated other questions beside that of woman. Here are a few of the subjects: "Does cold as a stimulus elevate the human system," "Are distilled liquors more a curse than a blessing," "Ought Congress to prohibit the use of distilled liquors," "Does Philosophy teach man his whole duty," "Ought a Religious test be a necessary



Names of Members.

Zebina Bailey — Hosea Cobb
Ruf. M. Pearson — Chaney Richardson
Seth Allen — Justin A. Howard was Expelled Dec 9th 1820
Horace Barber — ~~Jason Hatch~~
Erastus Pratt honorary — Marshal Waldron
John Blodget — do. — Daniel Anthony
George Hammond — Horace Walker
Jason Kendall — John Lapham
Cornelius Patrick
Oliver Farnsworth — Lyman Snow
Hezekiah Gates
Richard Bandon honorary
Andrew Smith Expelled Nov 25th 1820

Names of Members.

O. Anthony was Expelled

Members of The Literary Fraternity

qualification for holding office," "Is choice determined by the volition of the mind," "Ought military training be abolished." They voted yes. "Does genius contribute more to the formation of principles than education," "Is the reading of novels commendable," "Are the descendants of Adam subject to punishment because of his transgression," "Ought ministers of the Gospel be taxed," "Can the differences in the character of nations be attributed to physical causes," "Will Andrew Jackson be elected for a second term." Several times they debated the question of slavery.

A committee was chosen regularly to select topics for debate and report them to the Society who voted to accept or reject them. Once the vote was that question number six should be postponed forever and forever. In 1817 the debate was on the question, "Has Congress the Constitutional right to build roads." After some discussion, the members decided that their knowledge of the Constitution was so limited, they could not discuss the question satisfactorily. Such modesty and humility on the part of some of the Lords of Creation is edifying and refreshing and a worthy example for emulation in this day and generation. Another subject:—"Would the prospective canal from Hartford, Conn., to the head waters of the Connecticut River prove injurious to the merchantile interests of the adjacent country." And this: "Has Congress the power to build roads through the States without their consent." This one is good for closing the subjects of debate. "Has Mankind a more given failing than talking too much." Its form of statement is not the purest English.

On March 25th, 1817, the members of the Fraternity who were bent on intellectual improvement decided to

hold an open meeting which they felt would be conducive to further improvement. A general invitation was given and the records report, "That they were honored with the presence of a large number of respectable hearers." At 1 o'clock the house being filled, both Pit and Boxes, the session opened with a most elaborate program of declamations, orations, selections. Only 27 persons performed on this occasion. There was a Salutatory as well as a Valedictory address. "Elder I. Baker made a few pathetic remarks to the Fraternity, sent on high his fervent prayer that the divine benediction might rest upon this youthfull Society." They then adjourned. The old meeting house contained the "Pit and Boxes." A year later another public meeting was held at the School House. Twenty-eight persons took part, speaking on all sorts of subjects, including these two:—"Oration on Female Education" and "On the change which Christianity has effected in the character and condition of Females." This long program was followed by an elaborate Burlesque on Modern Invention. There was not time for all the speakers to be heard, eleven of them had to be silent, but the audience managed to survive a debate and after the society had closed their performance, one of the spectators, "Mrs. Rebecca Lard presented and read an original, ingenius and truly Poetical Hymn to Science and a very handsome and complimentary address to the Fraternity for which the Society gave her their vote of Thanks. The hour was very late and the audience somewhat wearied. Adjournment took place."

Rebecca Lard was the daughter of Jabez and Priscilla Hammond, pioneer settlers in the South Parish. Rebecca's married name was Laird, but the neighbors pronounced it

Lard and so spelt it. Henry Hammond, one of the founders of The Fraternity was her brother. Brave Rebecca! To stand up in that man made meeting and say her piece.

Open meetings were held nearly every year. The members felt that they were seasons of especial edification. Often they invited the ladies to sing and twice at least the Hayden Society furnished music. This is the only mention I have ever found of this musical group. In 1829, Mr. McGowan led the singing and in 1830 Mr. Perkins of Windsor led it. W. H. H. Rood who was conducting singing schools along in the 1830's is asked to announce these open meetings. Just what was sung, is not reported for the programs only say music but here are four titles of songs, Vesper Hymn, I Waited Patiently, Strike the Symbol and I Washed My Hands. Elder Hazen of the Christian Church at the Green was a guest a few times and was always thanked for the prayers he offered. Elder Seth Sterling and Elder Jacob Holt were guests also. They prayed in the meetings and were duly thanked. Rev. Samuel C. Loveland a well known Universalist minister, on two public occasions, gave addresses.

The Fraternity held special exercises on the deaths of Jefferson and Adams. The inaugural address of John Quincy Adams which advocated internal improvements, such as canals and roads, was the cause of an elaborate oration by Makepeace Ransom who declared that such proceedings would be unconstitutional. The Fraternity decided to observe the anniversary of American Independence July 4, 1830. It was Sunday. At a preliminary meeting of the Society, they voted to meet as usual at the school house at one o'clock P. M. and "March in percession to

the meeting house where the parts assigned to the members would be given." The president of the day was N. Wood. Chauncey Richardson and John Howland were appointed to sit with him on the platform. The exercises were as follows:

1st. Composition by F. C. Wood.
2nd. Prayer by Elder Sterling.
3rd. National Hymn.
4th. Declaration of Independence read by B. F. Rood.
5th. Poem by R. Joslyn (original).
6th. Oration by W. Bowman.
7th. Prayer by Elder Holt.
8th. Anthem by the Choir.
9th. Benediction.

"The very crowded assembly gave much credit and applause to those who addressed them." They voted to observe the 4th again in 1831 but something happened, the vote was rescinded and there was no celebration. This meeting house where the celebration was held was the old Congregational Church. In the description of this public meeting, the main floor is called the pit and the seats in the gallery are the boxes. The pit sounds rather theatrical, but this was a good Orthodox Church.

The Fraternity subscribed for various magazines which they auctioned off to the members for the purpose of reading. Those who paid the larger sums were entitled to keep the papers for a longer period. One such auction is reported here. They called it a vendue rather than an auction.

Received from	B. F. Rood for Museum	19½	cents
" "	G. Pearson for Traveller	42	cents
" "	S. F. Mather for "	10	cents
" "	G. S. Ralph " "	21	cents
" "	J. Howland " Republic of Letters	12½	cents

The magazines taken at different periods were:—The Port Folio, The Travellar, Annals of Education, Journal of Education, Republic of Letters, The Museum, and The American Journal. These titles are decidedly interesting and some of them sound like our Modern Progressive Educational papers. I wrote Harold Rugg of the Baker Library at Dartmouth College for information about them. His reply says that The Traveller which at one time was called The Travellar and Spirit of the Times was a chronicle of the turf, agriculture, field sports, literature and the stage. It was published in New York City from 1831 on. The Port Folio was published in Philadelphia from 1801 for several years by Oliver Oldschool, whose real name was Joseph Devine, a rather important literary man of those early days who lived at one time at Walpole, N. H., and collaborated with Chief Justice Royal Tyler in his writings. The Port Folio was a literary magazine. The Republic of Letters was a republication of Standard literature and was started in New York in 1834. Mr. Rugg found nothing about The American Journal and Annals of Education, but these magazines were being taken by the Society before its demise in 1835. They also bought books and advocated the establishment of a Library for their own use, despite the fact that there was one in South Woodstock where books were available for the payment of small fees.

A further word about The Traveller; the Society was taking it in 1829 and selling the reading of it to members so there is an error about the Publication beginning in 1831.

On March 28, 1835, the Society adjourned until September of that year, but for some unknown reason they did not meet until November 25th, when there was a goodly attendance as there was at each meeting in December. On the 11th of December, Ammi Willard was elected president. Daniel Ransom vice-president, O. J. Wait, critic, Benj. L. Holt, secretary, John Ralph and O. J. Wait committee on questions.

I copy the next record verbatim:—

Saturday, Dec. 26th, 1835.

"Society met pursuant to adjournment.

1st heard a composition from J. Ralph.

2nd elected E. Wood a member of this Society and the oath administered.

3rd took up the question, Would it be for the interest of Vermont to lessen the number of their representatives to the legislature of the State.

4th divided the house as follows

Affirmative	Negative
Jonathan Ralph	C. Richardson
G. P. Kingsley	B. L. Holt
E. Wood	

5th question decided in the Affirmative.

6th G. P. Kingsley orator elected.

7th elected C. Richardson Lecturer

8th voted that we adjourn one week at the usual time and place Benj. L. Holt Secretary"

There are no more records. The meetings stopped short, never to go again. The men present at this meeting were substantial folks. The Willard family were most outstanding and one of them was president when the end came.

Now for a brief word about the young men who first started this Society in the interest of culture. J. V. S. Smith went to Boston in 1818 to study at Harvard where he became a physician. When the Medical School opened in Woodstock in 1829 he was the lecturer on Physiology and Anatomy for the first quarter. He travelled extensively in Europe; visited the Holy Land. He was elected Mayor of Boston and was, for a time, Editor of the Boston Medical Journal. He made a trip to the Pacific coast when it was a difficult and dangerous journey. He made generous gifts of books to the Social Library of South Woodstock. Elon Farnsworth went to Detroit to live and distinguished himself as an educator. C. B. L. Delano settled in Lockport, N. Y., where he practiced medicine many years. Henry C. Hammond studied law and moved to Indiana where he followed his profession. Willard Bowman studied medicine and lived in Charlestown, Mass.; Oliver Williams Drew became a Doctor and settled in Waterbury, Vt.; the Ransom boys were gifted. Royal Makepeace practiced law in Woodstock. Frederic entered Dartmouth College where he was known as a youth of fine mind. He became very ill in his senior year and died.

During the twenty years of the existence of the Literary Fraternity, it enrolled nearly one hundred and fifty members. It had its ups and downs. The faithful grew discouraged occasionally, quorums would not be present, and then would come a decided revival of interest and the addition

of new members. I wish that a diary or letter or document would come to light telling why they ceased to function. Apparently youthful enthusiasm had then become middle aged conservatism and the enthusiasts of 1815 had found homes and work in other places.

CHAPTER VI

Woodstock Social Library

James Slayton of Slayton Hill, South Woodstock Parish, dreamed of a Library for his neighborhood and he canvassed the region, hoping to establish it in School District No. 17, but the response was not adequate, though he found a co-operative spirit in the person of John Simonds the School Master of No. 17, which was the Ralph and Slayton district.

In the deep snows of 1796 and 1797, this undefeated man, accompanied by this teacher, tramped to the tiny village of South Woodstock and the homes round about until he found enough people who felt the same need for books which he did and on the 26th of January 1797, they met and organized the Woodstock Social Library. They drew up a Compact and By-Laws for the regulation of the Library. Using the word Compact is significant. Some of these men had the blood of the Pilgrim Fathers flowing in their veins and that Compact drawn up and signed in the cabin of the *Mayflower,* the first written Constitution in the history of the world, had a special meaning for this little group in the wilderness, who were laying the foundation of an organization for intellectual development.

This Compact states:—"Knowledge is a Divine Lumi-

nary to enlighten our Path and Direct our Course in the Pursuit of Happiness the ultimate End of all Men. And as the Institution of Social Libraries are an excellent means to promote usefull Knowledge as well as of diffusing the Blessings of friendship, Intercourse and rational Entertainment amongst Mankind. Therefore we whose names are hereto Subscribed do covenant and agree to form ourselves into a Society by the Name of the Woodstock Social Library and as no Society can long Subsist without proper Laws and Regulations we do agree to the folowing By-Laws by which the Society of such and every Member thereof Shall be governed." The handwriting of this ancient document is excellent, the use of capital letters frequent, the lack of punctuation almost complete, the letter S. is the long one used in that early period and the spelling not quite in harmony with our present day spelling books.

The By-Laws provide for the usual officers and three censors. The Librarian is held responsible for all damages to the books in his keeping though "Extraordinary Casualties excepted." A proprietor who damages a book is to be held responsible for that damage. "All Stated or special meetings shall be warned by Pooting notice on the usual Place near the South Meeting house at least seven days before the Meeting." Was there a sort of bulletin board near that old Church on which notices were posted? It seems so. "The Censors shall hear all Complaints and redress all Grievances in the Society according to the true intent of the by-Laws it shall likewise be their duty annually to inspect all the Books belonging to the Library and take an exact account of the scituation which they

COMPACT

OF THE

WOODSTOCK, SOCIAL, LIBRY

Order is Heavens first Law

First confirmed January 26

MDCCXCVII.

find them in which they shall Deliver in writing to the Librarian." "Each person becoming a Proprietor of the Library shall pay $1.00 and each quarter 25 cents." These amounts were changed several times and the $1.00 finally became $2.50. There are many more rules and regulations This most important document is signed by Ab^m P. Mather Secretary. This man Mather was descended from the famous Cotton Mather family of Massachusetts and the blood of those Mathers still trickles in their descendants who live in our midst.

It was a thrilling experience to have placed in my hands the old record book of the Social Library with its wonderful Compact and Laws and the record of the organization meeting of the Library. These items were copied into this book in 1819 from an earlier record book which I fear is lost. There are no records of meetings from Jan. 26th, 1797, until the year 1816. There seems no doubt that the Secretary had access to the early records. He says so but he never copied them. This significant statement is appended to the Compact and By-Laws. "The foregoing Compact was first ratified and confirmed on the twenty sixth Day of Jan^a A L one thousand Seven hund and ninety seven. A true copy transcribed from Library Book Done January 9th 1819."

Attest Ab^m Mather Sect

The next important statement is as follows:

"Woodstock Jany. 26th 1797

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Woodstock Social Library the votes were Passed viz

OFFICERS

Jabez Cottle Esq.	President
Mr. Richard Ransom	Tresurer
Jn° Simonds	Secretary
Mr. Elisha Perkins	Librarian
Dea. Joseph Cottle	
Mr. Humphrey Rood	Censors
Mr. Sylvester Edson	

Voted, The Several officers perform their Duty without Pay from the Society. That the Censors be Comitee for Furnishing Books Paper &c for the use of the Society the Year ensuing. That this Meeting Be Disolved.

Attest Jn° Simonds, Sect."

"A True transcript from Librarians Book Done Jany 17th 1818

Attest Abm P. Mather Sect.

The Cottle name is prominent in the early days of South Woodstock and we often meet Joseph but this is the only time he is called Deacon. Since there are no records from this one of 1797 until 1816 it is hoped that the first record book may come to light from which Mather copied the preceding records. It is passing strange that he did not transcribe all the reports of the Annual Meetings when he had the book in his possession. He was secretary in 1816, 17 and 18. From 1816 to 1877 two Annual reports are missing but from 1877 to 1888 there is only a vast silence. In this latter year, a meeting was held when I. T. Fullerton was elected president, P. C. Kendall, Secretary, L. M. Hubbard, Librarian. The censors were J. K. Hoadley, R. M. Slayton and L. M. Hubbard. Hubbard offers to have

the Library located in his house if he can have the privilege of reading the books.

At the meeting in 1819 the Proprietors voted to have printed 100 copies of the Compact with a Catalogue of the books. Richard Ransom was appointed to get the material ready for publication. At this meeting the Librarian was ordered to "prize" all damage to the books and to make the necessary collections. In 1837, another Catalogue was printed and at the meeting in 1845, it was voted to find out what the cost would be for doing a Catalogue and if the rate were within their means, then one more should be printed. It is significant that all through the years new books were bought with great regularity. When books had been well read and showed wear, they were sold and the money used to buy new ones. In 1834 they voted to subscribe for some periodical. There were various fines levied, —they called them taxes,—the Proprietors had quite a facility for ignoring them, and when the amounts became excessive for the times, a vote would be taken at the annual meeting to abate all above 50 cents. This was done on several occasions and once they abated all above 25 cents. Apparently there were preachers or elders in South Woodstock at an early date and they were granted the privileges of the Library without expense. The names of these ministers will appear in the chapter devoted to the Churches. Some persons living at a distance were permitted to keep books for a longer period than those nearby. At the meeting of 1831 it was voted that Otis Darling of Pomfret should be permitted to take the book telling of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and he should pay the usual price for so doing. Later on, non-residents by paying in

advance a small annual fee could get books from the Library. This delightful item appears in 1836. "Persons can take out two or three novels at one time, provided the pages do not exceed 700." In 1857 the taxes against the widow of James Anthony were abated and in 1864 the widow of Dr. Bowman was given the free use of the Library for one year.

Where the books were kept in the early years no man knoweth. In the year 1849 they were moved to the store of Oliver Bailey. In 1875 they were in the home of J. N. Smith. There is an occasional mention of a meeting at the Library room. Once it is voted to buy a lock for the room. A good many annual meetings were held at the Ransom Counting room, or the Ransom store. Once they met at the Green Vestry. Once at the schoolhouse, once at the E. Woods' store. They may have met many times at these places, for it is the exception to tell where the meetings were held. The year 1850 seems to have had some excitement and dissension. "A special Committee was appointed to look after the Safe Keeping of the books." Now the by-laws made this the explicit task of the Librarian and Censors. The Librarian and treasurer resigned at once in a protest; the sequel of this action is not revealed. At the Annual Meeting of 1851 the Rev. D. M. Reed, Minister of the Universalist Church at the Green gave an address on Reading.

The Library was remembered by many friends with gifts of books. In 1854 Gaius Perkins of South Woodstock and H. B. Walton of Montpelier made such contributions as did James Slayton the father of the Library. The annual meeting of 1857 says, "That in the past two years, valua-

ble gifts of books have been received from the Hon. Jacob Collamer, U. S. Senator, the Hon. Andrew Tracey Esq, the Hon. Justin Morrill M. C. These are very handsome and useful additions to our Library which are not only recorded in this book but a mark of friendship is made on our minds that time will not deface in our day." "We have also received from the Hon. J. V. C. Smith Esq, Mayor of the City of Boston valuable additions to our Library. Although he left our village, forty years ago, he has not forgotten his old friend the Library." There were other donors of books whose names were not recorded. The 1850's were not only notable for the gifts of books, but they began to let a few women become proprietors. Here is this honor roll. Fannie Hammond, Martha Putnam, Patty Benjamin, Azuba Farnsworth and sisters, Frances Hememway and Betsy Wood. During the active life of the Library 190 men were proprietors. Some of these men lived at the Green, some in Hartland and Bridgewater. The majority at South Woodstock.

James Slayton died in 1857 and the annual meeting of that year recorded its resolutions of respect. I quote:— "Since our last annual meeting, we have lost the last original proprietor who took an active part in establishing the South Woodstock Social Library. In this place our friend and the friend of mankind, James Slayton was the first one that moved to call attention of the inhabitants to the importance of establishing a Public Library here more than sixty years ago. Mr. Slayton with the assistance of John Simonds who was then teaching in the School district on Slayton Hill waded through the snow in the dead of winter. They went from house to house in the then

howling wilderness and laid the subject of a Library before the people. Books were scarce and hard to be obtained at that time and the inhabitants were destitute and poor but they succeeded in getting sufficient support:—Resolved that we feel sensibly the loss of one who was the inspiration of this Association and one of the main Pillars for more than Sixty years. He was a Father, a friend and benefactor to us as long as he was permitted to remain." This was written by Chauncey Richardson who was then president of the Library. D. M. Hemenway, the secretary, offered another resolution emphasizing the fact that Mr. Slayton was the first and the last of the founders and that all through the years "He had made liberal contributions for the benefit and sustenance of this Social Compact." James Slayton had moved from his early home on the hill to the village where he kept a hotel. He was an ardent abolitionist and his hotel was "an underground station." Abolition meetings were held in an upper hall which was entered from an outside stairway. Some unbelievers from the Green attempted on one occasion to break up the meeting. Friend Slayton dropped them from the upper story to the ground beneath and the meeting proceeded. He held many town offices and died in the ripeness of his years, mourned by the whole community.

After the Liberal Institute was founded in 1848 the usefulness of the Library was widely extended. Principal and Preceptress had all of its advantages without expense. Students paid 12½ cents a term to use the books. The books covered a wide range of excellent reading, history, travel, biography, science, the arts, novels, exploration, philosophy, poetry. It was a Library to be proud of and the

teachers at the Institute as well as the students used it freely. I have access to one of the old books recording the names of those who used the books as well as the books read.

A notice copied from the Vermont Standard of March 4th 1875 says, "The proprietors of the Social Library met at Gifford's Hotel, February 23 and after the election of officers, they voted a tax of 25 cents on each share and that non-proprietors shall pay 10 cents a quarter. They voted to abate all previous taxes and gave all ministers and all teachers at the Academy the free use of the books. The officers requested that all books which were out, shall be returned to the Librarian J. W. Smith at once, the Library is in his house." In December of 1936 I went to the Academy building and counted the books which are a remnant of this Library. There are 400 on the shelves. They are good, solid reading, and tell something of the minds and character of those founders and patrons of the Social Library of South Woodstock.

The building of the Williams Library at the Green, with its endowment and larger facilities, meant the closing of this old Library after it had functioned nearly 100 years. We of this day hold in high honor those men and women who through the long years held aloft this torch for the human mind in its search for intellectual growth.

CHAPTER VII

Social Life and Other Items

WHY DO WE NOT make scrapbooks and keep diaries? Some of the most delightful sources of information for this book have been from carefully kept scrapbooks and from old diaries. One such book has samples of wedding dresses, worn by some of the South Woodstock brides. Part of them are dated. It would be interesting to give the colors of the gowns. Since that is impossible, a brief description and the name of the bride and that of her husband are given. Laura Brigham married Elijah Royce, February 23, 1788. She wore a flowered silk muslin; the flowers were rose color on a cream background. Laura Royce married Jason Kendall, wearing a white corded silk. Our town records give two dates for this marriage; one is September 17, 1817, the other is December 27, 1818. Laura is spelled Laury for the 1817 date and Lury for the 1818 date. They lived in the house which Mrs. Seymour Ballard now owns. Jason's name is on the old door knocker. Mrs. Betsey Royce Brigham married Elijah Marcy, February 21, 1841. Being a widow she wore royal purple. Laura Brigham married Edwin Hoadley, January 1, 1852. Her dress was a grayish green silk, trimmed with brocaded velvet ribbon in tones of green. Maria Hoadley married Benjamin F. Larned, October 21, 1856. Her dress was a

Once the Kendall Hoadley home

bright blue silk. Mary Chase married Carleton N. Brigham. She wore a dress of broken plaids in blue, brown and gray tones. Lizzie French married Joseph McKenzie, dressed in a brown corded silk. They went to Adrian, Michigan to live. Marilla C. Slayton married Stephen Kittridge. Her dress had broad stripes of blue and gray alternating with fancy narrow stripes of lavender. Lucy Ann Holt married Daniel Perry of Stoneham, Mass. Her dress was a queer colored silk of brown, trimmed with blue and mulberry. Abba Slayton married Harvey Thomas, wearing a gray striped delaine with green and red leaves scattered all over the material. Mary Ann French married Larned Kendall, January 1, 1851. Her dress was of striped green silk, very lovely. Mr. and Mrs. Kendall spent their married life in the house now owned by Mr. Owen Moon. She was a grand-daughter of Dr. Drew of South Woodstock. She and her sisters, Elizabeth Storrs and Abba Willard, were three rare and choice women. Miranda Rood married Joseph Holt, January 15, 1837. Her dress was tan silk, trimmed with gold brocaded ribbon. Ellen Brewster married E. M. Goodwin, March 17, 1859, wearing a broken plaid of green and white, (my mother wore a similar dress when married in Ohio in the early 60's). Mary W. Larned married Oliver Kibben. Her dress was a dark blue silk with gray flowers. It was trimmed with a fancy gray braid. Lizzie Brewster married L. M. Burrington, June 30, 1859. She wore a silk dress of green and gray stripes. Mrs. Sally C. Cox married Isaac Hartwell, dressed in a gown of brocaded maroon silk. Elmina Buchman Howe married Herman Wallace Hoadley April 15, 1862. Her dress was made of wine colored delaine. Edith Maria Hoadley mar-

Doorway of an old farm house

ried George Albert Hall, dressed in brown silk. Eunice Parker Wiley married John Knights, wearing brown silk. Eliza Burnham married John M. Blake. Her dress a blue plaid silk. Aurora Ralph married Henry W. Walker and wore a lavender silk with white stripes. Mary Townsend married Bert Bowen, dressed in white silk and lace. Maria Boynton married Oliver Smith. Her dress was a changeable silk of blues and greens. Clara Atwood married Mr. Stewart, wearing a brown silk. Mrs. Estabrook married Byron Thomas. She too wore a brown silk. Mary Burnham married Lucian Morgan. She wore a brown silk. These brown silk ladies were contemporaries. Hattie Cabot married Horace Davis. Her dress was a bright blue corded silk. Augusta Havens married Charles F. Brigham. Her dress was a blue and white checked silk. Julia Lincoln married Jason Kendall Hoadley, January 4, 1881. Her dress was a mulberry color with matched trimmings. They lived in the old Jason Kendall house now owned by Mrs. Seymour Ballard. Ella Blake married Charles Washburn. Her dress was made of a dark green velvety material. A much earlier marriage than the ones just mentioned was that of Laura Kendall to Madison Slayton. She wore a light brown silk with fancy threads zig-zagging all over it. When we came to Woodstock in 1902, Mrs. Madison Slayton lived in the house where Miss Lucy Davis spends the summers. She belonged to the Grand Dame Class. Her white hair was piled high on her head, her reserved dignity just a bit overawing. The type has passed from our midst.

This scrapbook with the samples of wedding dresses and records of the marriages is in the Norman Williams Library. In this scrapbook were pasted calling cards of

that period when they were highly glazed. Some of these were evidently the cards of newly married couples. In the centre of one appear the names, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hoadley, then in the lower left hand corner is printed Edwin C. Hoadley, beneath his, is her name, Laura Brigham. Another is, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hoadley, only the bride's name below, Minnie B. Stowe. Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Pancher, lower corner, Miss L. A. McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Densmore, then Laura M. Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Goodwin, then Eliza A. Brewster. Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Burrington, then Lizzie M. Brewster. All this card formality is delightful and shows that the people of our South Parish had a sense of etiquette and through it they preserved something of the dignity of social intercourse. Some of the cards have wreaths of colored flowers on their edges, roses and lilies and morning glories.

Formal invitations to social functions went from the farm homes to other farm homes. Three of these are given. One is written, the other two are printed. Mrs. D. A. Walker, At home Tuesday evening. October 9. Seven Oclock.

"Mr. and Mrs. Larned Kendall will be happy to see Mr. and Mrs. E. Hoadley Monday evening, January 1st." This invitation went to a large number of friends. Here is a more formal invitation:

Jan. 1, 1851 Jan 1, 1876

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Kendall
At Home
South Woodstock, Vt.

Saturday Evening Jan. 1, 1876
25th Anniversary No Presents.

This hospitable home of Larned and Mary Ann Kendall has its fine traditions preserved by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Moon. Hand decorated cards were sent out on birthdays. Some of them have heads of women and children painted on them. Many of them in this ancient scrapbook are quite wonderful. There were many other social functions and entertainments in the South Parish.

Fourth of July, 1806, was an outstanding occasion in South Woodstock. This report is quoted:—"It was a grand affair, at 11 A. M. the Reverend Clergy and orator of the day took the lead, escorted by the troops under Capt. Allen, marched to the meeting house. Here Elder Jabez Cottle offered prayer. The Declaration of Independence was read by the Orator Titus Hutchinson, who expatiated in flowing language upon the fundamental principles of American Liberty. At 2:30 P. M. the procession reformed and marched to a bower and sat down to a sumptuous repast prepared by Elisha Perkins. The toasts were highly seasoned with patriotic sentiment, the American Eagle was not forgotten. Aristocracy was sent flying to Europe and to Canada. Capt. Peter Willard was President of the Day. Capt. Perkins and Col. Raymond were the Marshalls and Rev. Andrew Smith was Chaplain. The Committee on arrangements consisted of Wm. Strong, Peter Willard, Oliver Farnsworth, Jabez Cottle, Jr. and Fred'k Mather."

A good many "Cotillions" were held when a hundred or more couples danced. Concerts and dances were combined. When D. A. Gifford managed the hotel, he had balls on Independence night, on Thanksgiving and between these dates. Everybody danced. A. M. Morgan man-

aged the hotel in the 1870's and he continued the balls. A concert is given by Messrs. Shaw and Nichols of the Paganini Concert Club. Mr. Shaw's violin playing was superb. They will give another concert in two weeks at the National Hotel. In August 1872, Mrs. Madison Slayton and Mrs. Eliab Bridge celebrated their birthdays, they being the same age. "A nice little affair in the shape of a party came off in their honor. Thirty-five ladies sat down to a pleasant chat over a delightful cup of tea and viands choice, the tables were adorned with fruit and flowers. The literary feast of reason and flow of soul was conducted by the ladies exclusively with Mrs. C. B. Benjamin in the chair. Mrs. Worcester spoke saying we are neither Professors or orators but we offer our hearty congratulations."

The Blaisdell and Ingall Bell Ringers came to the village and gave an excellent entertainment. A few of us are still alive who remember with delight the Bell Ringers who went about the country. The Larned Kendalls entertained the Band at their home in May 1872 after it had played for an Academy Exhibition, and in September of that year, Mr. Kendall had a flag raising for Grant and Wilson. Wm. Johnson, Warren French and Dr. Boynton made speeches. Mrs. Kendall read a poem, written by her sister. Then she and Mr. Kendall served "a collation" for all who were present. On February 1, 1875, Capt. Isaac Parker and wife celebrated their golden wedding. The venerable Chauncey Richardson read a paper recounting events of the past. Rev. Eli Ballou of the Universalist Church offered congratulations and expressed the regret of all that their son, Prof. Parker of Lombard College,

Galesbury, Ill., could not be present. Their daughter, Mrs. L. M. Wood, acted as hostess.

On March 29, 1879, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jaquith celebrated their golden wedding at the National Hall. Mr. C. F. Benjamin led a band of singers. The Orion Grange marched into the hall. A newspaper published in Randolph, Vt., in 1829 was shown to the many guests. It contained this item:—"In Hartland on March 30, by the Rev. Robert Bartlett of the Universalist Church, Marshall Jaquith was married to Miss Mary Jane Burk." Larned Kendall presented the golden wedding gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Jaquith. Their pastor the Rev. Eli Ballou gave the good wishes of the guests. Dr. and Mrs. Chandler sang a duet. James Murdock gave a party for his sister Clara in 1882 on her 82nd birthday. Twenty-two people were present and only four were under eighty. Mrs. Benj. Mack was ninety-four but was not able to attend although she was a near neighbor. Here are the names of the guests and their ages. It is quite remarkable. Mrs. Elizabeth S. R. Church, 92, Hugh P. Howe, 91, Chauncey Richardson, 88, Abraham Stearns, 88, George Bradford, 88, Mrs. George Bradford, 83, Mrs. Ebenezer Wilder, 87, Mrs. Nathan Churchill, 82, Mrs. Elinor Winslow, 85, John S. Haynes, 85, John Young, 84, Mrs. John Young, 79, Mrs. Aurelia Lamb, 84, Mrs. Susannah Richmond, 83, Joseph Kennedy, 82, Mrs. Rufus Shaw, 81, Mrs. M. A. Royce, 79, Mrs. Phoebe Blossom, 79, Mrs. Norilla Chamberlin, 71.

The items which follow are not of a social nature but they reveal something of the life in the South Parish and the relationships of the people as neighbors and as business

people, and are pertinent to this book. Jonathan Slayton and Joseph Cottle were two of the five road surveyors for 1781. Two years earlier Jabez and Joseph Cottle were members of a committee elected to divide the town into two Parishes. In November 1795, Ransom and Cottle advertize their goods and ask people to pay what they owe. Wm. Wyllys is elected thything man at one of the town meetings in 1796. Dr. Stephen Drew puts a notice in Spooner's Journal in 1796 telling his delinquent patients to settle without delay. Field and Perry announce that they have opened a new store near the meeting house and are selling all kinds of goods. It was a short lived venture. "Caveat! The old tune that I will thresh next week, will no longer answer for lawful currency. All persons indebted to Ransom and Cottle are desired to make payment by the 10th of July. A word to the wise is sufficient." Quoted from Spooner's Journal, June 15, 1796.

Letters uncalled for by South Woodstock people at the Woodstock Post office, October 6, 1800, are addressed to Isaac Cottle, Dolly Cottle, Elisha Ransom, Phineas Thomas. Such notices appeared frequently in Spooner's Journal.

"All who wish, can be innoculated with the Kine Pox by applying to N. Trask. N. B. It is said that Small Pox is prevailing on the West Side of the Mountain." This appears in Spooner's Journal, Feb. 14, 1820.

"Ransom and Son respectfully, inform those with whom they have accounts and obligations, which have become due: that Payment is expected and Immediately requested—and as they have not been in the habit of Calling this way, they flatter themselves, that this timely notice will supercede the neces-

sity of Calling any other way or having any excuses for want of being notified after this date."

R. Ransom and Son
Dec. 1828

"The Subscriber now offers for Sale his farm (Woodstock South Parish) formerly owned by Silas Perry deceased, and under good improvements with good House, two barns and other out buildings thereon standing. Any person wishing to lay out money to advantage will do well to call and look for themselves, as the crops which are now on, together with those taken off will recommend Said premises without deception. Terms of payment will be easy, if required, by having part of the money down."

Elisha Perry

Aug. 20, 1828

Woodstock (S. P.)

"The real and personal property of Jason Kendall, deceased, will be sold at public auction, at the home of Jason Kendall on Thursday next, the 28th, at one o'clock P. M. 1828. The real estate consists of 27 or 8 acres of very valuable land, woodland heavily timbered with hardwood; with the best of soil for cultivation, lying one half mile from the South Parish Meeting House, and an undivided ten acres of excellent pasture upon the east side of Long Hill. The personal property is composed of household furniture, farming tools etc. A liberal credit will be given for the real estate and for the rest, when purchases amount to $24."

Caleb Kendall
::Administrators.
B. F. Kendall

Thompson's Gazetteer for 1824, reports that South Woodstock has two churches, one Doctor, one store, one tavern and about twenty houses, a number of mills and mechanic shops. The firm of Stearns and Blake of the Green, set up a branch store in the South Village in 1832, under the direction of Parker Morse. It had a brief existence. In 1806 the property of Captain Thomas Ellis is offered for sale:

"We the Subscribers, being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Jesse Williams, Judge of the Probate for the district of Hartford, to receive and examine claims of creditors to the estate of Captain Thomas Ellis. We give notice that we shall attend to the business at the home of Wm. Ellis, on the last Tuesday of September and April, from 1–6 P. M."

JABEZ COTTLE
STEPHEN FARNSWORTH ::Commissioners.
EPHRAIM ALLEN JR.

South Parish Woodstock:—In October 1806, Hannah Pelton is appointed administratrix, to the estate of Hatzel Pelton.

A great and glorious event took place in the South Parish in 1860. Van Amberg's Circus came to town and pitched their tents on the meadow, south of the Village and east of the highway. A big elephant named Hannibal, was one of the attractions. Will Rood remembers this elephant; though a very small boy, he has never forgotten its splendid proportions. Oscar Farwell walked from the Green to the South Village over the hill road, following the footsteps of Hannibal. Prizes were given to small boys who could stick on a bucking mule, riding bareback about the track. The late Charles Perry was one of the riders.

Frank Standish, born in South Woodstock, was owner

of the tannery and sawmill near the mouth of the Kedron at the Green. This item appears in our local paper on May 11, 1871. "Our Neighbor Standish would esteem it a favor if all the residents along the South Branch, would throw all their refuse, garbage, brush etc. into the stream as the quantity which now comes down to the flume is not sufficient to keep one man employed constantly, to keep it clean." That is delightful. Frank Standish and his sarcasm might still serve a useful purpose.

"The Temperance Division of South Woodstock is to hold a public meeting in the Church on Friday evening, Feb. 17, 1864, to listen to a commemorative eulogy, on Dr. Isaiah Buckman, to be pronounced by Prof. Wm. Shipman of the Academy." Norman Montague has sold the Royce Farm in the Fletcher District, South Woodstock, to Carlos Adams for $1600. This item is dated March 1870. On Feb. 11, 1869, the ladies of the National Hotel sent the Editor of the Standard a large box of various kinds of cakes which were greatly appreciated. During these years, Mrs. Bill Fisher was weaving rag carpets for the homes of South Woodstock. Remnants of her work are to be seen occasionally.

The farmers all had sheep through the years of the 1800's, and sheep washing was a great event. The hole for that purpose was on the brook, which flows down to the Kedron from the Fletcher neighborhood. When the old tannery which stood near the stone bridge in the South Village, was being taken down, a small boy fell from one of the upper stones into the waters beneath. He was taken out nearly unconscious and badly injured. He revived and still lives. His name is G. E. Thomas. In the autumn of

1876, Mr. Rood, on five nights, captured thirty-one Coons. Hard on the Coons! The next fall, thirty-two men appeared at the home of Edwin Morgan, who was very ill. The number was soon increased to nearly fifty, and they husked 250 bushels of corn, gathered the squashes and pumpkins, put his fences in order. Some weeks before this, they had done the same friendly service for Frank Perry, who was ill.

"Dr. E. M. Wilson, who has been in New York State for four months, is home again, and for a few weeks will give the citizens of South Woodstock and vicinity, the benefit of all the latest improvements in dentistry and will be happy to wait on all who need his professional services." This item appeared September 1875. Horses had a habit of running away. Russell Brewster had his do this near their home in the Kedron Valley. He was thrown out of the buggy and his leg was broken. Coming to the Green was an exciting event for the South Parish horses. On one Saturday in Nov. 1873, Amos Washburn's horse ran away, as did the horse of Mrs. A. E. Lord; both buggies were smashed.

On December 20, 1877, Mr. Perkins preached in the Universalist Church in South Woodstock and also gave an address on Margaret Fuller and Mary Lyon. Congratulations at this late date to Mr. Perkins for his open mind. "Otis Wood was thrown from his carriage in August 1880. He voted for the first Harrison for President, and intended to vote for the grandson, for the same office but his serious injury will prevent his going to the polls. [Vermont elections were then held in September.] He is deeply disappointed."

South Woodstock in the early years was greatly troubled by the "sheep rams" and other animals which were permitted to run at large. These sheep rams were especially troublesome. Under an act passed by the State Legislature on November 11, 1819, it was possible for the South Parish to create certain boundaries where animals would not be allowed loose. On September 9th, 1837, this was done. Here is a description of the limits. "Beginning at the West Abutment of bridge near Asa Whitakers carding machine, thence north westerly to north easterly corner of Billy Brown's wood house. Thence to 15 rods northerly at Hollis Stowe's dwelling house, from thence toward 10 rods westerly of Ansel Cowdry's dwelling house. Thence to center of the highway, 25 rods westerly of James Pierce's dwelling house, from thence to the center of the highway, 15 rods southerly to John Lake's dwelling house from thence northeasterly to the place of beginning." The Billy Brown house was the stone one, north of Paul Kendall's place. John Lake lived where the Moons live. James Pierce is unknown.

South Woodstock had a fire department which was organized in 1834. The apparatus was kept for years in the hearse house, which stood on the lot back of the Universalist Church. Hearse and a fire equipment, that was a funny combination. Alonza Wood owns two wheels, not of the hearse, but from the fire cart. They are attached to a cart which he uses on his farm. The district to be served by this company of fire-fighters, is definitely described as follows: "Beginning at the south line of Jason Kendall's farm, including Ira Kendall's farm. John Lake's farm, and the Stephen Farnsworth farm, now owned by Oliver Bailey,

Ezekiel Parsons and James Slayton, thence up the Main street of the village in South Woodstock by Truman Perkins, to and including the farm now owned by Hollis Stowe and from the Junction of roads near the Tomb by Monroe McKenzies to Richard Hayes west line, and from the main street aforesaid by Slayton's grist Mill to Abner Beckwith's east line and from Elizah Sterlings by Asa Whitakers and widow Martha Benjamin's by Cephas Ransom's to R. Ransom's store on said Main street and from the road near the meeting house by the Plastered house owned by Billy Brown to and including Samuel Brown's farm where he now lives, including all the lands and real estate owned by all persons living on the roads and streets above described and surveyed."

These boundaries for the animals and the fire department are difficult to locate these days, for so many of the farms have been sold and many of the names are now unknown. Only through an intensive study of the old deeds is it possible to locate these lines. The interesting thing to know, is that the South Parish had a volunteer fire department and that sheep rams could not cavort at will among the flocks on those farms.

This Chapter would be incomplete without the delightful story of the marriage of Daniel Ransom and Lucy Edson Lake by the Rev. Jasper Hazen, on July 13th, 1835, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lake. Here's the report of the event written by the groom: "I paid the officiating clergyman a five dollar gold piece, which was a rare article in those days, silver being almost the only coin. We immediately started on our wedding tour and rode to the Green with E. S. Hayden and wife and

George W. Dana and wife. Then went by stage to Rutland and Castleton, and then to Whitehall, New York. From Whitehall to Fort Edward in a canal packet boat and had dinner on board. Then by stage to Saratoga Springs. The rail-road from the Springs to Schenectady and Albany had just been built. The cars were of the English Compartment kind. They ran two trains a day, one was drawn by horses, the other by a locomotive engine, that had not much power, the head winds made slow time. Wife stayed in Saratoga, while I was gone a few days to New York City and Newark New Jersey, where an old schoolmate, Dan Moore, was at work in a carriage factory. Upon finding him, he dropped his work for the day and we went into New York to the theater, and the next day I returned to Saratoga. In going up and down the Hudson, the fare was twelve and a half cents each way. The rail road from Albany to Schenectady was quite straight and near Schenectady ran down a steep hill. On the top of the hill was a stationary engine, to regulate the hauling up and letting down the cars, always when one car went up, another went down on another track. After our visit at the Springs was finished, we took the stage for home via, Manchester, Chester, Springfield, having been gone two weeks at a cost of about eighty dollars. At Saratoga, wife had selected a nice handsome straw bonnet which I paid for, it being the first article of her apparel, I paid for. It became her then as much as a good one does now, and I don't see but that she is as handsome today, baring the wrinkles that eighty years of age will bring, as she was then at twenty-two."

Gallant Man! To see the beauty in the devoted wife of

the long years of wedded life. She certainly was due that straw bonnet as compensation for spending those days of their honeymoon alone, while he went ambling off down the Hudson. Why did he not tell what he saw played at the theater in New York? Mr. and Mrs. Ransom lived for a time with his parents in the South Village. In 1849, they moved to the Green, but before that they managed the tavern, now known as the Kedron. Living at the Green, they kept the Eagle Tavern, now the Woodstock Inn, for one year, and then came the call of the West and they went to Wisconsin. He wrote this Memoir in 1894. In it he says he had never returned to Vermont, but that his wife and children had done so. The grand-children found their homes in New England.

"South Woodstock, Vermont, March 11, 1903. On Jan. 15 last, Joseph Slayton Holt and Miranda N. Holt celebrated the 66th anniversary of their marriage at the Kedron Tavern, of which their son, Melvin J. Holt, is proprietor. Mr. Joseph Slayton was born June 9, 1815. Mrs. Holt was born Feb. 10, 1818, in Elmore, Vt. Her maiden name was Miranda N. Rood. She was the daughter of Henry and Betsy Keith Rood. Her Great-great-grandmother was Catherine Wolfe, sister of the intrepid young General James Wolfe, who against great odds led his forces successfully against Quebec, which was gallantly defended by the French General Montcalm. Her grandfather was Thomas Park Rood, one of the very earliest settlers of Hartland, Vt. Coming up the Connecticut River in his canoe, he put in at Lull Brook, where he located his farm, and it is said he built the second frame barn in the town. This farm is now called Reindeer Farm and is in posses-

sion of the great-grandson, Melvin J. Holt. On the old slate-stone slab marking the grave of Thomas Rood is this quaint inscription:—'In memory of Thomas Park Rood, who died Oct. 10, 1795. Age 63. He moved to Hartland in 1762, one of the first settlers, bore the brunt of a new uncultivated wilderness, lived to see five of his tender off-spring taken by death, one only left to set this stone.' Mr. and Mrs. Holt have been industrious farmer people, hard-working, but with time to be neighborly and to form the righteous purposes which controlled their lives. There were born to them seven children, but of these only one is living, Melvin J. Holt. An accident befell Mrs. Holt about four years ago, since which time she has been unable to walk, yet aside from this both Mr. and Mrs. Holt are in the enjoyment of good health and continue life's way with much of the spirit and good cheer of youth." This item was written for the Vermont Standard by N. Wood. We, the Canfields, attended this 66th wedding anniversary. It was quite a thrilling event to see a couple who had been married so many years and whose minds were so keen and active. Russell Streeter, the well known Universalist Minister of the Woodstock Parishes, married them at the bride's home.

The Vermont Standard announced that on "Friday December 9, 1863, the horse trainers, Van Olinda and Wilder will be in South Woodstock and give instructions on feeding, training and driving. They will demonstrate driving without harness, the only control being a whip." Along in these years, droves of cattle, sometimes numbering 200, passed through the village, to be sold or swapped.

As the old records are read, one is impressed with the

freedom exercised in spelling names and the use or omission of capital letters. Sterling is Starlin, Kendall is Kindall, Ansel is Ancil, Hoadley is Hodly, Alonzo is Lonso; the list can be extended. Every man adopted his own method of spelling. Capitals appear on common nouns and surnames begin with small letters, all of which adds to the interest of reading these early reports.

CHAPTER VIII

South Parish Schools

COMMON SCHOOLS

At the town meeting of 1779, it was voted to divide the town into "destricts for the advantage of schooling." Another vote declared that there should be five of them and a committee of five was appointed to make the divisions. Jabez Cottle and Oliver Farnsworth were the South Parish members of this committee. They also voted to raise money for schooling by putting a tax of four pence on each pound on the Grand List. This was not done. At the meeting in 1782, it was voted to build a schoolhouse in or near the center of the town where it shall be most convenient. The Selectmen were ordered "To fetch a plan for S*d* house and see that it is done." Dana's History says that this building probably was not erected. At this same meeting it was voted that if any money was left after building the schoolhouse, it should be used to build a bridge over the Quechee.

In 1787, a further division was made for school districts and there were then six. This process went on as the population increased till the number had reached eighteen. In the earliest years the districts were named for

their location in the town in such fashion as this—the Middle District north of the river. This proved to be too clumsy and in 1824, they were all numbered, but that method is now obsolete.

A state law in 1827 provided that school committees should be chosen in each town to manage all the affairs of their own schools. Woodstock on February 1, 1828, reported that a committee of seven had been appointed. This act was repealed in 1833 and each school district was again a law unto itself and the Freemen could do what they pleased with their individual schools. They were the supreme masters in their own districts and there were none to dispute them, except as they disputed with each other.

All these years there was no state provision to help support the schools. Each district had to meet its own expenses for teachers, buildings and any other expense connected with the upkeep of the schools. In the year 1797 a statute was enacted by the Legislature, giving the towns permission to assess a tax on the Grand List for school maintenance. The struggle for sufficient money to support the schools is an ever present problem. I wonder what would happen to those men of the years preceding 1842, were they to come to earth now and see the increased facilities for the schools, the increasing costs. They would be so shocked,—those men of frugal minds and frugal habits—they would no doubt have immediate heart attacks and retire into the quiet of their graves. They could not realize the changing times, the greater demands, the ever increasing needs for broad and generous "schooling."

It is the purpose of this book to try to save the brief

records of the early days of our South Parish but so much of interest and importance have been lost by all the methods of destruction which go on through house cleanings and fires that it is most difficult to get information. The people who had definite memories of events and inhabitants of even the middle of the last century are all dead. And so we struggle almost vainly to rescue the remnants. Only one school district has preserved any sort of complete records. They are most valuable and give a clear picture of the school maintained for many years.

District 17 was the Slayton-Ralph neighborhood. Elias Smith in his little book of memories tells about teaching there in the winter of 1788. The school was held in a new dwelling house which was in quite an unfinished state, the windows had oiled paper to give light which was largely darkness. For many years a brick building served this district but it is fast crumbling into a complete ruin. It was built in 1827. In 1797 John Simonds was the teacher and he must have been fairly well equipped and have had some vision of education for he assisted James Slayton that year in organizing the Social Library of the South Parish and he was the first Secretary. In February 1844, this school held public exercises. Jabez Crooker was the teacher. The following citizens attended these exercises:—Galo Ralph and wife, Seth Brewster and wife, O. Forbush, C. N. Kittredge, Gardner Windslow, Jr., I. F. Fullerton, Augustus Parker, Joseph Wardner, Sylvanus Hale, Norman Smith, Frank Standish, Jerome Kingsley, J. V. Crooker, Luetta Taylor. The exercises went off so grandly, teacher and pupils were encouraged to give another performance on March 2nd when declamations were given by Aurelius

Ralph, Abiah Slayton, Silas Bordo, Florantina Ralph, Quincy Benjamin, Orlanda Benjamin, Elbridge Swain, Edward Ralph, Sylvester Holt, Lucy Ann Holt. Composisitions were read by Truman Slayton, Elbridge Swain, Elizabeth W. Brewster, Florantina Ralph, Albert Hoadly, Orlanda Benjamin, Quincy Benjamin, Abba Slayton, Lucy Ann Holt, James H. S. Slayton, Louisa M. Bridge, Lavina A. Benjamin, Malvina S. Holt, Sylvester N. Holt, Sarah B. Slayton, Marilla C. Slayton, Hannah D. Jewell. A Dialogue was given by Edwin C. Hoadly, Quincy Benjamin and Truman Slayton. Original Declamations were given by James H. S. Slayton, Hannah I. Jewell, Sarah B. Slayton and Malvina S. Holt. Some of these youngsters were put through their paces, performing various parts. Where all of the guests were stowed away on this occasion leaves even the imagination appalled. The visitors present were:—Paul Brewster, Jonathan Ralph and wife, Jonathan Ralph, Jr., and wife, Amos Ralph, Daniel Lake and wife, Lemuel Benjamin and wife, James C. Slayton and wife, Melvin Holt and wife, Mrs. Susan Bridge, Seth Brewster, Abner Hemenway, Joseph Holt, Oliver Bridge, Abel Holt, Hiram Fales, Fred'k Kendall, Samuel C. Taylor, Jacob Holt, James Fletcher, Augustus Page, Charles Rood, Joseph O. Crooker, James Taylor, Dwight Cabot, C. V. N. Kittredge, Sanford Wilder, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Jewell, A. Lamson, Mary Ann Wilder, Jane Cabot, Elizabeth Shedd, Lucy Kendall, Alvina Lamson, Nancy Fay. Some of these people came across the town line. These Shedds and Lamsons lived in Sheddsville. This neighborhood was famous. Children filled the homes and the school flourished.

The Pelton School district is Number 9. The first school-

house was built of logs and the children went to a spring west of the building for their drinking water. The building was heated with an open fireplace. Of course everything was crude and primitive. The log building burned in 1822 and a frame one was erected on the site and a great innovation in the shape of a stove was put in the house to give warmth. This district embraced all the families on those hill roads. Some of the roads still exist and some have passed away as have many of the homes. Nathan Thomas taught in this school district in 1822-3.

District No. 14, known as New Boston, had its first log schoolhouse in 1797. It stood about forty rods west of the present brick building. In 1802, Jonathan Wait gave the district twelve rods of land for a school and a frame building was put up in 1803 and the log building became Mr. Wait's blacksmith shop. This schoolhouse burned in 1812 and for three years the district had no place for its school but it was kept in various homes. In 1815, the little brick building was erected. It has been abandoned as a school for some years. Some of the teachers in No. 14 were Jonathan Kingsley, Jr., Celinda Thaxter, Mayhew Safford, Lucy Sterling, John Hayes, Jr., Billy Kingsley, Sarepta Emmons and Miss Palmer. This is the neighborhood mentioned in another chapter which was famous for its Lyceum. Could those brick walls talk, what interesting things we would hear. The winter terms were the times when the big boys attended school and men were the teachers. It was the notion then prevailing that only men could meet the problems arising from unruly youth. Some of the winter terms in this district were attended by seventy

pupils, only then they were always called scholars, even if they knew but little.

District 15 embraced what is now the village of South Woodstock. There was at first a log building and then a frame one. It stood near the Cottle Mills. In 1790 the Warning had an article "To see if the town will vote to hold the town meetings in the future half at the court house, the other half at the school house near Esq. Cottles Mills." It was never done. The brick schoolhouse now owned by Orion Grange was built in 1825 and used for school purposes till the erection of the present frame building in 1903. Mrs. Elisha Perkins while still Abbie Abbot taught in the village the summer and fall terms of 1876. James Cutler taught school in the village in 1809 and 10.

The Fletcher school district is number 16 on the map of 1832, also on the map of 1869 which is in the Windsor County Atlas. The schoolhouse in 1832 stood not quite half way from the present school and the Erwin Fullerton farm and on the left side of the road going towards that farm. The land for the present school was given in the 1870's by Rinaldo Hopkins. Changing the location caused much discussion and excitement and decided opposition on the part of some of the people. But there was an earlier school in this region; it was down near the foot of Fletcher hill in the midst of the Scotch settlers who owned those farms. Mrs. R. H. Kingsley's mother who was born in 1812, had her first schooling there.

In 1872 on February 13, the Fletcher School held public exercises. Rev. Eli Ballou and Prof. W. M. Wright were speakers. A large number of the parents and friends assembled. The children presented to their teacher, who

had then taught four terms there, a set of jewelry and a gold bracelet. Mary Fletcher made the speech of presentation. Abbie Abbot, later Mrs. Elisha Perkins, taught the summer and fall terms for 1874 and 1875. At the closing of her engagement, a little mahogany writing box was given her by the following pupils: Ellis Eaton, Ralph Jaquith, Walter Hoisington, Jane, Lucinda and Addie Jaquith. Their names are on a slip pasted in the lid of the box. Mrs. Perkins has treasured this gift all of her days.

The school in the Crooker district has no mention at all in the town history, but the map of 1832 shows it to be located on the road going north between the Crooker farm and that of Windslow Phelps. The trifling bit of information which I have dug up concerning it has a most romantic sound. It was called the Wigwam and it was on a bluff on that road. Why Wigwam, no one knows. The name suggests so many things. Elvira Melissa Kingsley taught this school in 1820 when she was sixteen years old. When Carlos Adams' father moved into this district in 1845, school was held for several years in the basement of his house which stood on a bank and the rear of the house was two stories high. The basement was built of brick and was entirely above ground. This room was equipped with the necessary school furniture of that time. Mrs. Adams taught several terms. Miss Lattimere who afterwards taught at the Green was one of the teachers of this basement school. Other teachers were Benjamin F. Bement, Sarah A. Mack and M. M. Farnsworth. Maria Pelton from District 9 taught the Crooker school in the early 1850's. She was young and as was the custom of the times, she had to board round. She was desperately home-sick. The

lilacs were blooming wherever she stayed, so the odor of lilacs all the rest of her days was associated with that home-sickness and she loathed their odor to the very last. Later on a school building was erected below the Phelps farm on the road to Bridgewater. The Wigwam! Why was it abandoned, and why was it so named? The silence answers not.

In 1785 the people who lived near the South meeting house hired Elder Elisha Ransom to teach a winter term. In 1796 a group of the South Parish, consisting of Jabez Cottle, David Bailey, Jonathan Crooker, Wm. Ellis, Wm. Wyllys, Nathaniel Hammond, Warren Cottle, Daniel Perry, Stephen Farnsworth, Abraham Kendall, Eleazer Parker, John Hammond, Daniel Perkins, Mehitabath Phelps, Isaac Kendall, Lyonel Ransom and James Covel signed an agreement with Jabez Hammond to teach their youngsters who were called Skollars. There were signatures for twenty nine whole ones. Abraham Kendall had one and one half skollars. Isaac Kendall one third. Lyonel Ransom two thirds and Daniel Perkins one and a half. Just how one third or one half of a child could be sent to school is a puzzle which I am unable to solve. Some of these men failed to pay their part of the tuition and Jabez left his bills with the law office of Charles Marsh for collection.

District 18 is the only one which has preserved the records of its separate organization. It is described "As bounded on the North by the South lines of Samuel Royces land, the old Field farm, Caleb Stows land Oliver Kendalls farm and land owned by Chester Royce East by Daniel Lake William Bridge and Lemuel Benjamin's

South by Reading line West by Jacob Holt's Titus Lull's David Kendall's and Oliver Bailey's land also the old Davis and Mitchell Pope's farm annexed by the town of Reading." The petition for organization is dated May 11, 1829, and is signed by "Noah Cady, David Mack Jr., John Fullerton and Wm. Wood. They ask the Selectmen to call a meeting of all the legal voters in the district to assemble. John A. Pratt and Jason Kendall, Selectmen, proceed to do this. They met on June 15 at one P.M. when John Anthony was chosen Moderator and John W. Standish Clerk, and they organized a standing committee consisting of Noah Cady, John Standish and Wm. Wood and with A. B. Rice Collector." This precious old record book closes its reports in 1893 though the year is not given, only the day of the week and month. The Otis Wood family of this district have preserved this record. The first school in this district was located by the Darling farm on the edge of Long Hill. By 1832 another one had been built which stood on a bluff along the brook just above the Otis Wood house. Later a building was erected down that hill road and back some feet from the Woodstock-Reading road. Year after year the "votable inhabitants" are warned to appear at the school meetings to determine whether there shall be both winter and summer terms and the length of them, wood must be provided for the cold weather, arrangements must be made for the boarding round of the teachers, repairs have to be made on the building. It is always a complete record of responsibility and planning. At the meeting of 1829 they discuss the subject of building a new schoolhouse, and they own some sort of a heat-

ing stove. By 1840 all of these districts are getting a little state money.

That "boarding round" for the teachers must have been more or less ghastly. District 18 sold the board out to the lowest bidders; one bid which was accepted, was $1.20 a week for summer and $1.33 for winter. In 1849 the district voted "that Mrs. Susan Kendall be discharged from boarding the teacher that summer." Sometimes children who lived outside the limits of this District attended this school and their parents in 1838 paid one shilling a week tuition. Each year they discussed having a new schoolhouse. In the fall of 1840 they voted to build one the next spring but they did not do so. The next year they voted to build one south of the old house, about half way between the bridge and the gate. A special committee was appointed "to sit" with the regular committee. Charles Washburn and James Anthony were to do the "sitting." The new school was to be 26½ feet by 26 feet and the old house should be sold and the money used in the building of the new one. The Warning for the meeting of May 2nd, 1842, called a meeting to be held in the new schoolhouse.

At the meeting in 1841, they voted to abate John Darling's school tax and in 1842 they did the same for Reuben Washburn. Along about 1856 they thought that the school should be more centrally located, and they voted to appoint a committee "to apprize" the damage of moving and the costs of repairs. In 1855 they bought a lock for the door and voted that the house must be locked except for school, public meetings and religious services. The teachers' names never got into this book. From other sources I have learned that E. S. Holt taught in 1858. Otis Wood

taught in this school as did his son Noah and Julia Holt who later became Mrs. Noah Wood.

As late as 1865 the warning said, "To see whether the District will direct the committee to procure Teachers and board as best maybe or sell it at auction one or two weeks at a time or the whole at once." The sentence is a bit involved, but we can guess at its meaning. At the meeting of March 28, 1876, "It was voted to engage the rate of the tuition of such scholars at the Academy as may wish to attend from this district during the school year and also to present the bills for the attendance of such scholars to the parents of the same for payment into the District treasury, giving orders there to the principal of the Academy to pay for said attendance." This plan was followed for several years. These records give the names of various families who lived in this district but of whom no mention is made at all in the Town history.

The American Whig dated Woodstock, Tuesday, May 2, 1834, contains this interesting advertizement; "Miss Gardner's School. (For Young Ladies in South Woodstock.) The summer term of this school will commence on Monday May 12th and the fall term August 18th and continue 12 weeks each. The course of study pursued here is designed to give Young Ladies who complete it, a thorough and extensive English Education. The following are among the principle branches taught, Reading, Spelling, Defining, Chirography, Composition, Mental and Written Arithmetic, Ancient and Modern Geography, History, Grammar, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, Chemistry, Botany, Astronomy, Intellectual Philosophy, and Geometry. Tuition $3.00. Drawing and Painting in connexion

with the above branches, $4.00 per term. Board may be obtained in the village from $1.00 to $1.25 per week, including washing. References given by David Pierce, Esq., Dr. J. Burnell, Mr. Charles Dana, Woodstock Green, Richard Ransom, Esq., Dr. W. Bowman, Bailey and Morse, South Woodstock. This school was held in the Ransom house on the hill where Mrs. Paul Kendall lives. It must have been of short duration for no other notice of it has been found.

These men have been mentioned as school commissioners. Just how they got their appointment no record tells; John Fisher, a Scotchman, reputed to have known Bobby Burns and a devoted reader of Carlyle, was commissioner from 1820 to 1824. He married Eunice McClay, the daughter of another Scotchman, and he lived in that region settled by the Scotch people over on the north end of the Fletcher School region. These Scotch are buried in that neglected graveyard to which I refer, the old Morgan Yard. Why not mark the grave of the first commissioner of schools in the town?

An item in a newspaper of 1824 reports that Plyman Church succeeded John as commissioner. Edward Church in 1780 came from Hadley, Mass., settled just off that road over Fletcher hill. He had nine children. The only one ever mentioned in the Town history was Pliny. No Plyman ever held property in the town, but he was on the Committee to help build the tomb in the South Parish. It's just another one of the utterly forgotten things, but here comes Samuel Wood. He too was school commissioner, also selectman, overseer of the poor, and several other positions were held by him.

CHAPTER IX

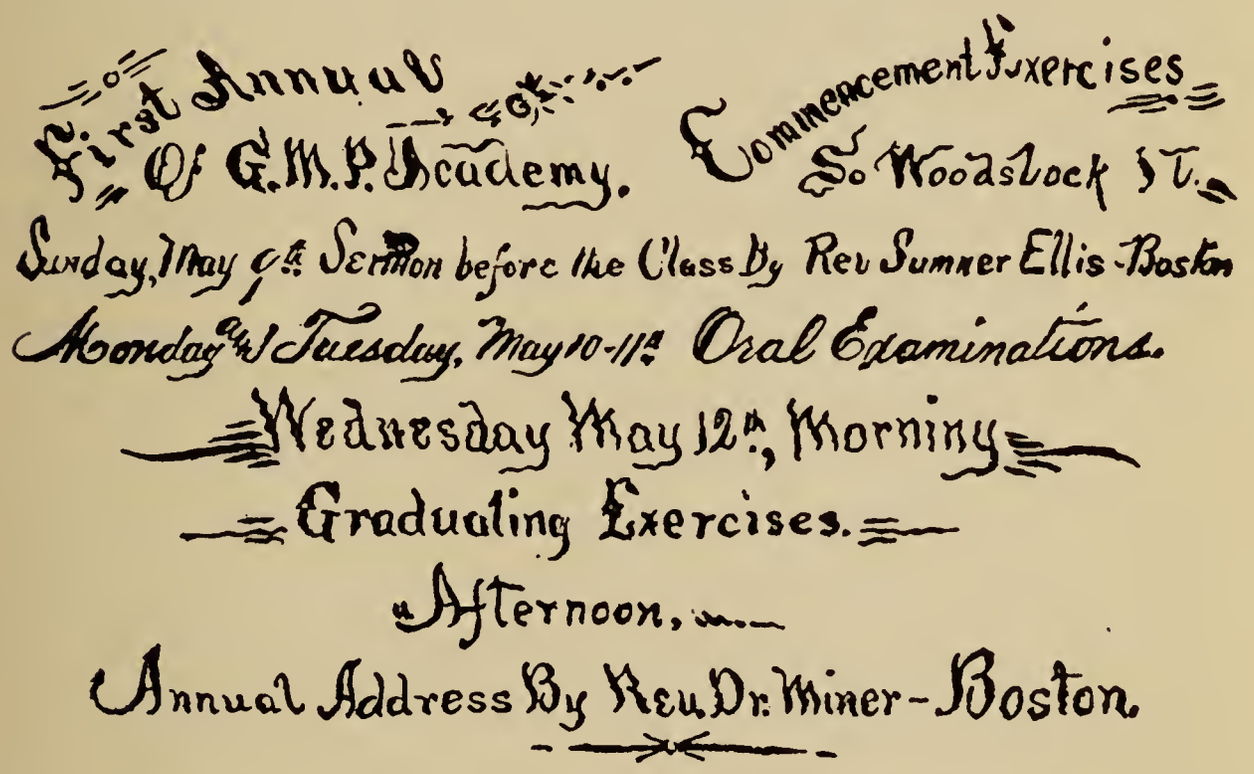
The Green Mountain Liberal Institute

THE VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE on November 13, 1848, incorporated this school. It was founded by a group of Universalist ministers and laymen who were interested in education. They were Liberals, men of the open mind. The world was still full of sectarian prejudices and the children of liberal parents found themselves persecuted in the Orthodox schools. It was anathema not to believe in hell, the Trinity, original sin and all of the dreadful doctrines of Calvinism. The Universalists established schools in several states to which their children were sent and where the scholastic and religious education were cultural and devout. Young people came to this school in South Woodstock from all of the New England States, also from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Louisiana, New York State, Pennsylvania, Colorado. The greater number were from the New England States and Vermont sent many students. High Schools were not yet well organized and the opportunities for excellent training were really quite outstanding in this school.

Among the Incorporators were the former Governor Silas H. Jennison, Ammi Willard, Isaiah Buckman, Daniel

Ransom, Rev. Warren Skinner, Willard Bowman, Samuel Adams, Walter Palmer, Nathan Lamb, Homer H. Hammond, Rev. D. M. Reed, Rev. Eli Ballou, Rev. W. S. Ballou, Rev. Samuel C. Loveland.

The first commencement was announced in the following manner. This is copied from one of the original cards. It occurred in 1854. A postal card with an invitation to this event has been preserved by Mrs. Elisha Perkins of Bridgewater. It is reproduced at this point.


First Annual Commencement Exercises
Of G.M.P. Academy. So Woodstock Vt.
Sunday, May 9th Sermon before the Class By Rev Sumner Ellis Boston
Monday & Tuesday, May 10-11th Oral Examinations.
Wednesday May 12th, Morning
Graduating Exercises.
Afternoon,
Annual Address By Rev. Dr. Miner - Boston.

The Catalogue for 1850 says, "This Institution is located at South Woodstock, a place accessible by regular stages, being five miles from Woodstock Green and eight miles from Hartland Depot on the Vermont Central Railroad. This quiet and retired village, situated in a delightful valley, furnishes to the student all that is desired to render it a pleasant retreat, being free from the many evil inducements incident to manufacturing and large places of busi-

ness. The community is moral, intelligent and refined. One object of this Institution is to secure to the youth who come to it, perfect freedom of conscience and freedom of opinion which some institutions fail to do. Non-conformity in religious sentiments is not made the unpardonable sin of the student. There are devotional exercises daily and all the students are expected to attend. Students are expected to attend church." This information is given also:—"Board can be obtained from $1.50 to $1.75 a week including everything. Students can board themselves or live in Clubs, thus reducing expenses."

"Tuition for the Common English Branches is $3.00 a term. Higher Branches, $3.50. Penciling and Painting in water colors each $1.00. Painting in black and colored crayons $1.50, Classics, French and German $4.00. Music including use of instrument $8.00. Incidentals 12½ cents."

The Catalogue of 1855 reveals a raise in prices. The Classical department must pay from $4.00 to $5.00 a term. The English from $3.50 to $4.50. French and German students $5.00. Theological students $6.00. 22 Music lessons $8.00, 12 Vocal lessons $1.00. Penmanship with materials $1.00. The next items are the cream of the announcements and show so clearly the Art of the period. "Pencilling, Water colors, Messotint, Ornamental Hair Work each $1.50. Monochromatic, Polychromatic, Black Crayons, Colored Crayons, Head Drawing, Painting on Velvet $2.50. Wax Fruit and Flowers, including materials each $3.00. Ornamental Leather Work $3.00. Oil Painting exclusive of materials $6.00." I own quite a lovely piece of painting on velvet, done by Mrs. Lee who was one of

the teachers during these years and whose husband, the Rev. John S. Lee, was the honored Principal.

The Catalogue of 1857 announces that "This Academical and Collegiate Institution is located in the quiet and pleasant village of South Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont. Sixty miles north of Brattleboro, five miles south from Woodstock Court House and The Green, one of the most delightful villages in New England. The school is conducted on principles of social and religious equality. The students are mostly from fifteen to twenty years of age, including many advanced scholars." The Catalogue for the 60's just says "This Institution" with the location following, and leaves out the high sounding terms.

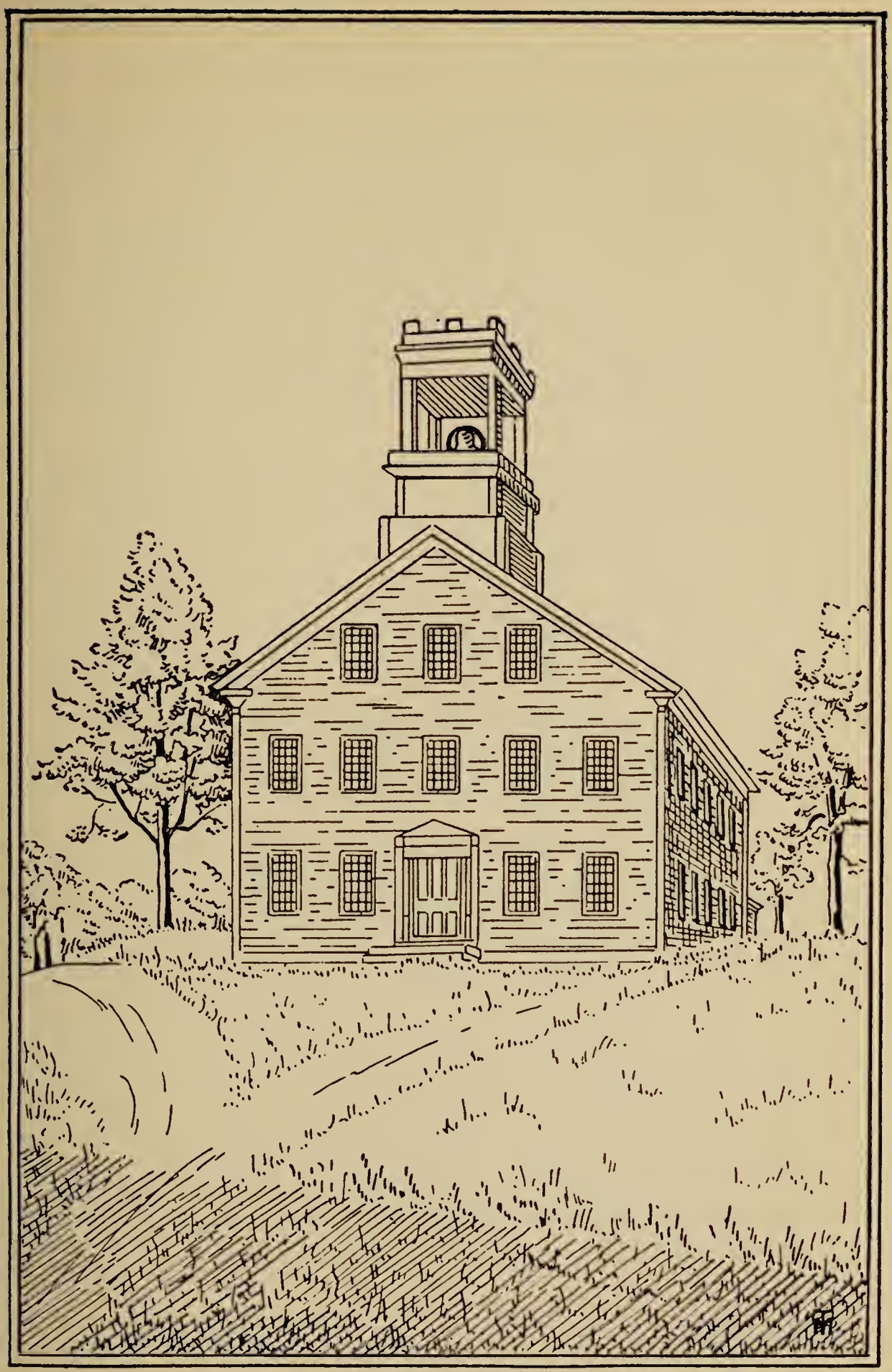
Dr. Lee established a teachers' training class in 1854, which was continued for five years. Normal schools were very few in the United States at that time. Only a teacher with a broad understanding of education and its needs would have had such a class, but Dr. Lee was a real teacher, one who knew how to inspire in his pupils a love for study. The forming of this class in those years is most significant. The response to this opportunity for teacher training is also significant. Never less than one hundred young men and women were enrolled in what was called "The Teachers' Association." Some of the young people of this region who enrolled were Norman Paul, Ora Paul, Jr., M. W. Ware, H. N. Bruce, S. A. Parker, H. W. Parker, Olivia Briggs, later Mrs. Jaquith and for years the Librarian of the Williams Library, S. M. Wilder, A. E. Ralph, Mr. J. Farnsworth, W. I. Kendall, Orlando Sherwin, several of the Brewsters. I recognize the names of students from other

states who became teachers and ministers and did worthwhile jobs in the world.

Lectures were given to this class on teaching methods, on text books, on school government. The classes were taught not to use the rod but to teach intelligently. Standards for teaching and teachers were much emphasized.

Dr. Lee was interested in higher education and so boys were prepared for college. Colleges in the 1850's were largely a place for boys. A few girls went but the eternal male stands forth conspicuously. Members of the Class of 1854 who went to college were L. M. Burrington of Conneaut, Ohio, Harvey Hersey of Calais, Vermont, Augustus Scott of Milford, Mass., Henry B. Walton of Franklin, Maine. These boys all went to Tufts. Wm. Wallace Southgate of Bridgewater, Vermont, went to Harvard. David C. Moore of Strafford, Vermont, went to Dartmouth. The following members of the Class of 1855 went to Tufts: David H. Clark of Boston, Windsor B. French of Milton, N. Y., W. E. Gibbs of Albany, N. Y., G. B. Willard of Boston, Hosea W. Parker and Sylvester Parker of East Lempster, N. H., Thomas Seaver of Woodstock, O. C. Turner of South Attleboro, Mass., Andrew J. Weaver of Paper Mill Village, N. H.

The Class of 1856 sent Norman Paul of Pomfret to Vermont University, Henry H. Vail of Pomfret to Middlebury and the following to Tufts: Elmer H. Capen of Stoughton, Mass., Horatio McIntire of Munsunville, N. H., Elam Porter of Hartford, Vermont, Benjamin K. Russ of Lowell, Mass., Sydney B. Sanders of West Windsor, Vermont. The Class of 1858 sent two boys to Middlebury, Henry A. Eaton of Granville, Vt., and E. Oscar Lee of



The Perkins Green Mountain Institute

Vernon, Vermont. Eugene H. Richards of North Attleboro, Mass., went to Tufts and Charles C. Smith of West Cornwall, Conn., to the Vermont University. Unfortunately the Catalogues cease to tell who went to College after 1860, but it is known that Almon Gunnison of Halifax, N. S., Frank T. Christie, Henry M. Christie, William Mack, all residents of Woodstock, went to Tufts. Henry Priest of Mechanicsville was college trained and taught at St. Lawrence.

The Catalogue for 1873 says that 150 students can be accommodated. The corporation owns a large brick house which is the old boarding house kept by Mr. Morgan. Board including fuel, lights, washing is $3.50 a week. Room for self boarding may be had. Some of the Woodstock young people who attended the school in 1873 were Clara McKenzie, Jennie L. Sherwin, Alice and Ella Washburn, Eva and Emma McClay, Sidney W. Richardson and Elmer H. Sherwin.

Parents and guardians who sent young pupils from a distance, are requested not to furnish them with money which they can spend at pleasure or authorize credit but put the money into the hands of the Principal which is necessary for their use. "An indiscriminate use of money is the bane of the student's life if he is disposed to spend it lavishly." The item in the Catalogues on the Government of the schools says, "It is mild and parental, yet firm and decisive. The rules of the Institute and Boarding house are simple, reasonable and practicable, and each pupil is required to obey them, not only for the welfare of the whole school but for his own good."

"The Philomathean Society has a Library. There is a

good Library of seven hundred volumes in the Village to which students have access by paying 12½ cents per term. A reading room has been opened containing some fifty Periodicals from all parts of the country. The Philomathean Society holds meetings every Friday evening for debate, essays, orations, declamations, etc. Two papers, one edited by gentlemen, the other by ladies, are read at each meeting. A semi-annual examination takes place at the close of the fall and spring terms to which parents and other interested persons are invited. An exhibition is given at the close of the fall term consisting of original Orations and Colloquies." On May 21, 1873, the students' semi-annual exhibition took place. The Woodstock Cornet Band furnished music. The door opened at 6:45 P.M. and exercises commenced at 7:30. The admission was 25 cents.

It is interesting to read the programs of the public exercises given by the students. The boys always have some vivid subjects for their orations and the girls have wishy-washy sentimental stuff. It is a wonder that the young women ever developed into students and finally public speakers. Here are some of the subjects which the boys had: Latin Oration, Republica Americana, Chronicle of Recent Events, Consequences of the American Revolution, Vermont, The Evils of War, Improvement of Our Common Schools, The True Dignity and Grandeur of a Nation, The Scholar, The True Reformer, L'Etude du Langue Francais, The Political Influence of Woman, The Eloquence of John Adams, Progress of Civilization, The Dishonest Politician.

The poor girls write essays and here are some of their

subjects. The Mission of Dew-Drop, Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver, the Goblet of Life, Every Heart Has its Hidden Sorrows, Fireside Angels, Light and Shade, The meaning of a Tear Drop, Sad Tidings, Guardian Angels, Scattered Blessings. Lucy Bacon of Boston in 1861 wrote an essay on "It Might Have Been." I knew her well after we came East to live. She was one of decided women, deeply interested in reforms and standing up, true and straight for what she believed. She married a South Woodstock man, Lake Ransom, and one of her sons teaches at Tufts College. One thanks Heaven for the Lucy Bacons who could get away from sentimentality and become real leaders in vital things of life, holding fast to ideals but facing all duties with practical sense.

At the annual Exhibition in 1856, after thirteen orations had been given, there followed a play dramatized from a novel called Marion Lester, written by Minnie Davis, who had been a student at the Institute. Her father was a well known Universalist Minister. Miss Davis wrote several novels and some poetry which in her time attracted considerable attention. Her sisters as well as she, were all students at the Institute. Many of the programs of the Annual Exhibitions during Dr. Lee's regime have been saved by the Lee family and have been made accessible for my use.

This Society, called the Philomathean, flourished for several years, its membership consisting of the students. They published a paper, all written by hand with a highly decorated cover, with wreaths and mottoes and the names of the editors. The sheets were tied together with either pink or blue ribbons. The editorials all began on the

cover. The hand writing is very fine, the ink is much faded in the seven volumes which I have been privileged to see. Each issue contained twelve or fourteen pages with two columns to each page.

Of course the school had lectures by important people on important subjects. Prof. Conant, State Superintendent of Education, lectured at the Academy, March 12, 1877. The music pupils of F. C. Benjamin were now giving concerts.

The Vermont Standard of February 6, 1879, "says that Prof. N. P. Wood, Principal of the Academy, manifests commendable zeal in the management of the school. He brought with him this fall one of the Miller first-class pianos. He has also added a new Philosophical and chemical apparatus at a cost of $400.00. The money has been given by friends of the school. He has arranged with several Doctors to give six or eight lectures on Anatomy and Physiology. They will be useful." These physicians who were then announced to speak at the school were, Dr. Richmond and Dr. Sherwin of Woodstock, Dr. Turner of Barnard, Dr. Rugg of Hartland and Dr. Guild of Felchville. "Dr. Sherwin gave an illustrated lecture on the eyes and showed that there is more in the human eye than is dreamed of in our philosophy."

Prof. John P. Marshall of Tufts College gave a lecture at the Institute on Chromo-Lithography, Tuesday, March 16, 1869. The students of the Institute gave a dance in the National hall on Friday evening, May 18, 1871. Hawkins' Band furnished the music. The students gave a gymnastic performance in the National hall in August, 1872, with a very large attendance; 15 cents admission was charged.

Frank C. Hatch was announced to give his lecture on his Travels in Europe at the Academy on September 10, 1879, and Geo. M. Clark will tell either of his trip to the West or to Mammoth Cave at an early date. The Rev. George Emerson came various times from Boston to speak at the school. With lectures, public exhibitions, concerts, the life of the student body was kept interesting.

The Legislature of 1860 was asked to drop the word Liberal from the official name of the school. It was not done till the following year. There was a school at Plymouth Union which used the word liberal in its title, and some confliction ensued and some feeling, so the South Woodstock school dropped that word and it was called The Green Mountain Institute. At the annual meeting of the trustees in 1869 they voted to change the name once more, which of course had to be done by Legislative Act. Gaius Perkins, long connected with the school in official capacities, had died and willed to the school for its permanent fund a $1000.00 United States bond. In gratitude to his generosity and devoted service the name of the school became, The Green Mountain Perkins Academy.

During the early years, the Institute was dependent on the tuitions for its support but it was discovered at once that this was not adequate and money had to be raised to meet the annual deficits. The Trustees soon began to consider raising a permanent fund sufficiently large so that the interest from it would cover the expenses. They always had a large number of men on the Board, men of real standing and worth. The Rev. Warren Skinner served for twenty years as one of the Trustees. His children attended the school and some of them taught in it. At the annual

meeting in 1859 the Trustees voted to raise $10,000 as a permanent fund. Mr. Henry Walker of South Woodstock, and the Rev. E. S. Foster in 1866 started out to get this amount. Nathan Lamb of Bridgewater, many years one of the Trustees, had from the early years of the school served as Collector to raise money for the annual deficits.

THE
GREEN MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE
SUBSCRIPTION BOOK
OF
ENDOWMENT
1866

CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTION
OF THE
GREEN MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE
ENDOWMENT

We the undersigned promise and agree to pay according to the conditions herein specified the sums set opposite our names to the Green Mt. Institute or to the order of the Institute's Ex. Com. agreeably to the following requirements for the purposes of endowing the Institute.

It is proposed by the friends of the Institute now at South Woodstock, Vermont, to raise $13,000 or more, the subscriptions to become binding when the sum of $10,000 has been subscribed.

The Conditions of payment are these viz.: Sums not exceeding $25.00 shall be payable within 30 days after the above amount of $10,000 has been subscribed. Sums exceeding $25.00 and less than $100.00 shall be paid at the time said $10,000 is raised and the remainder one year after; Sums of $100.00 or more shall be paid one fourth in 30 days after the $10,000 is raised and the remainder in 3 equal payments, provided all sums becoming due after one year from the time the required sum shall have been subscribed, shall be on interest until the sum is paid.

We the undersigned do hereby bind ourselves and our heirs and assigns forever to the fulfillment of the foregoing agreement.

South Woodstock, Vermont, May 1866

G M.P A Endowment

Benjamin Hathorn, C. D. Perkins, E. H. Slayton, Daniel Claflin, James Powers, H. C. Hoadley, Isaac Parker, Isaac Kendall, Billy Brown, R. E. Townsend, S. E. Munger, J. H. Murdock, J. H. Murdock & Son, Geo. Mellish, G. E. French, Alvin Hatch, Chas. Dana, A. G. Brown & Son, Russell, Clark and Randall, J. B. Jones, Chas. Chapman, F. N. Billings, M. F. Morrison, L. C. Kendall, H. C. Drew, G. D. Cabot, H. H. H. Rood, J. D. Hewitt, W. L. Damon, Foster & Eaton, Joseph Kennedy, A. & I. T. Fullerton, Sanford Wilder, Mrs. M. A. Wilder, Franklin Perry, Ira Kendall, Galen Persons, C. R. Larrabee, Gaius Perkins, R. M. Morgan, R. T. Hopkins, Mrs. E. M. Brewster, Lewis Pratt, Wm. Bailey, N. T. Churchill, G. M. Perry, Lemuel Gillingham, Thomas Christie, Job Richmond, J. S. Richmond, Edwin Hazen, Gilman Henry, J. N. Haskell, George French, H. V. French, F. A. Holt, E. W. Bridge, Mrs. R. H. Buckman, B. G. Bigelow, Nathan Lamb, Philander Smith, Hiram Spaulding, O. F. Hemenway, J. S. Slack, Walter Palmer, Gaius Perkins, Samuel Wood, Oliver Kendall, John Farnsworth, Robt. Elwell, Jonas Aldrich, John

Minard, G. D. Barton, B. L. Holt, F. G. Folsom, N. T. Churchill, S. E. Munger, Geo. Mellish, F. P. Kendall, J. G. Powers, R. M. Slayton, C. H. Larrabee per Thornton, I. A. Kendall, C. D. Perkins, E. C. Hoadley, Hiram Holt, Mrs. E. M. Brewster, H. C. Drew, Ira Kendall, Daniel Claflin, E. K. Atwood, Sanford Wilder, Mrs. M. A. Wilder, Charles Washburn, Nathan Lamb, R. M. Morgan, H. W. Walker, Samuel C. Hubbard, R. T. Hopkins, Isaac Parker, C. F. Lincoln, Wm. Bailey, R. E. Townsend, Galen Persons, Wm. Bailey, Franklin Perry, S. R. Fletcher, R. M. Slayton, Nathan Procter per E. S. Foster, J. W. Smith, C. K. Larrabee per C. C. Thornton, F. P. Kendall, Isaac Kendall, Nathan Lamb, Daniel Claflin, Maria Burgess, E. C. Hoadley, Isaac Kendall, Hiram Holt, Nathan Lamb, Justin S. Montague, Sullivan White, R. M. Morgan, C. D. Perkins, L. C. Kendall, O. F. Hemenway, J. M. Slack, Galen Pearsons, James D. Perkins, B. E. Townsend, J. Ralph, E. K. Hoadley, Andrew Smith, Charles Washburn, John W. Standish, S. R. Fletcher, B. G. Bigelow, R. M. Slayton, Oliver Kendall, F. P. Kendall, J. M. Slack, Hiram Holt, Silas Perry, Isaac C. Lewis, E. C. Hoadley, C. K. Larrabee per Thornton, C. D. Perkins, Bartlett Bent, By note from I. T. Fullerton, By note from Elias Logan, Samuel C. Hubbard by check, Jos. Adams by check, E. H. Slayton part by note, E. C. Hoadley, C. D. Perkins, C. D. Perkins, C. D. Perkins, C. D. Perkins.

He made payments on different dates which accounts for the repetition of his name. It also accounts for other duplications.

The financial report for 1869 stated the Boarding house and meadow were valued at $2800, the store and pound lot at $1400, money not collected but charged $2697. Due from C. D. Perkins $3971, bonds $1025, note, $100, due from Mr. Gifford $25, in Treasurer's hands $230. The

Slack farm was valued at $5000, the amount which had been paid for it by the Academy. The present hotel property was also owned by the school many years. The report for 1875 listed the real estate at $9200. The school held Woodstock town bonds for $1400, Bridgewater bonds for $300. The Academy building was valued at $1800. These items with others brought the assets up to more than $12,000. In 1876 Nathan Churchill gave the school $1000. In 1884 the Academy leased to Forest Gilson 45 acres of land.

On July 28, 1896, a meeting was called to sell the hotel property, but instead of voting to sell, they voted to make some repairs costing from $250 to $350. This property was finally sold to Melvin J. Holt and money was loaned him for repairs, and he conveyed by deed to the Academy, the Carleton Morgan property adjoining the hotel. He also gave a mortgage on the furnace of the hotel and in addition to the annual interest, a payment had to be made yearly on the debt. It was also voted at this meeting to sell the Academy woodhouse for $2.50 or $3.50. Eventually the Slack Farm was sold. A small sum still exists which is available for needed repairs on the building. The Academy is used by the Social Circle for its meetings and other public meetings are sometimes held in it. Since 1911 an annual reunion of former students and teachers is held one day in August. Their meetings are of much interest and keep alive the memories of the days when the school flourished.

The last two graduates were Alice M. Temple of South Woodstock and Milton J. Pierson of Brownsville. They finished their work in 1890. During the latter years of the school the custom was to hold, instead of three, only two

terms. In the earlier years, the winter term was on occasion omitted. When the war between the States occurred so many boys entered the Army that the school was deeply affected.

To give the names of the Principals of the school from the time it started till it closed, is a bit difficult for in some instances a man acted in that capacity for only one term, and some one else served for the other two terms. Then for some strange reason the Academic year closed in November and that adds to the difficulty. John Ward, the first Principal, served two years. D. M. Reed, Wm. Putnam, W. C. Cram, Wm. Putney followed. An Alumnus of Amherst College of the Class of 1843, J. S. Lee, served from 1852 through 1858 and was succeeded by Moses Marston who later taught at St. Lawrence University. Dr. Lee went to St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y., to teach and stayed there till his death. Nehemiah White was Principal for one term at least. Wm. R. Shipman when he became Principal found that the school had been closed for nine months. Prof. Wm. Ransom sent me Professor Shipman's account of his life in South Woodstock written in his beautiful handwriting in a little red Morocco book. I quote from it, "I did not have smooth sailing nor did I expect to have. During the four years, I expelled three and dismissed four. I worked in the school from five to fourteen hours a day, averaging nine hours daily. I was absent from the school in those four years, less than three days." He gives the number of students who attended and then says, "For the four years my receipts deducting board were $440 a year. This was twice as much as the Trustees could afford today. The school introduced me to an ex-

tended circle of acquaintances and in various ways served me much better than it did financially." He tells that he was Superintendent of the Sunday school at the Chapel and when he closed his engagement as Principal a Bible was presented to him with this inscription, "As a token of friendship and with the kind regards of the ladies of the South Woodstock Social Circle, presented at the Institute July 31st, 1863, to Wm. R. Shipman, late Principal of the Green Mountain Institute and Superintendent of the Sabbath School." Prof. Shipman became a teacher at Tufts College and spent the rest of his life there teaching in the department of English. To continue with the names of the Principals:—J. J. Lewis, H. P. McKechnie, H. R. Burrington, Edward Drew, A. Z. Squires, J. L. Powers, Minot Warren, J. B. Morse. These five preceding names are of men who only served a term or two, Marsh Perkins, and Walter M. Wright stayed for brief periods. Then came E. H. Aldrich who stayed on the job five years and so was able to do real constructive work. At this writing he still lives and has his home in Rutland, Vermont. Other Principals were Norman P. Wood for three years, Noah Wood, J. S. Cook, W. E. Mack. N. P. Wood taught again, also J. S. Cook, Oscar Perry, Charles Darling, F. O. Kendall, N. E. Wood, Carrie Walker, F. B. Van Ormon, then Carrie Walker Jaquith, J. H. Dunbar. During the 1890's two terms were held and in the spring with J. H. Dunbar as Principal and the two graduates already mentioned, the Green Mountain Perkins Academy closed its door as a place of education. High Schools were prospering, schools had been built in centers with railroad facilities. Life had taken on complexities that a little remote village school could no longer

meet and so the curtain fell on some hopes not fulfilled but also on much excellent work which had been done.

In 1902 when we came to Woodstock the men and women of the South Parish had been students in this school and one felt the impact of the cultural life which fifty years of the school had left. Pupils and many of the teachers lived in the homes of the neighborhood. There was a close and intimate relationship between the school and the families.

The last part of this story will be incomplete and imperfect for no one knows the life of all these students. Some of them came to occupy prominent places in their towns and states. It is a very difficult undertaking to get information about people long since dead. Many letters of inquiry have been sent out. Many people have been interviewed but the results are meager as to definite results.

The Hon. Hosea Parker studied at the Institute, graduated at Tufts, became a distinguished lawyer in his state of New Hampshire. He lived at Claremont. As a Democrat he served two terms in Congress. The Bar of New Hampshire celebrated his eightieth birthday with a banquet. For fifty years he was Superintendent of the Universalist Sunday school in his home church. He attended the reunions of the Academy while living and was an impressive figure. He married Lovisa Southgate of Bridgewater who was a student at the Institute. Before the Civil War she had taught in the South but the increasing friction had compelled her to come back North.

I. A. Parker a native of South Woodstock, a student of the Institute, graduated at Dartmouth in the Class of

1853. He became a teacher in Lombard College, Galesburg, Ill., and taught there many years.

Elmer H. Capen, after leaving the Institute, graduated at Tufts, prepared for the Universalist Ministry, preached for a few years and in 1875 became president of Tufts College. He was a distinguished Educator and Administrator. He died at Tufts in May 1905.

Almon Gunnison went to Tufts after his South Woodstock days, became a Clergyman in the Universalist Church, held several exceptional pastorates, traveled extensively, wrote delightful reports of these journeys. He spent his last years as President of St. Lawrence University.

Three boys by the name of Pope, Carlos Cadwell, M. Aurelius, and Ira from Washington, Vermont, all were students in the 1850's. They went to Minnesota. One became an Editor, the others studied law. Wade Keyes, of Reading, prepared for Tufts College at the Institute. Ebenezer J. Ormsbee of Brandon, Vermont, was at the Institute in 1856. He became Governor of Vermont, and was Consul at Samoa when Robert Louis Stevenson was living there.

"Annette J. Shaw was born in Sutton, Vermont, June 7, 1848. She was educated in Barton Academy, and the Green Mountain Institute, there fitting for college. In the fall of 1869 she entered St. Lawrence University, and graduated in 1873, receiving the degree of A. B. On leaving college she was at once engaged as preceptress of Canton Union School, where she taught the languages, and largely fitted her classes for entering college. But her mind was upon the ministry, so relinquishing teaching, she set herself to the task of preparing fully for it. In the Autumn of 1874, she entered Canton Theo-

logical School and graduated in 1876. During her theological course she was instructor at St. Lawrence University, in German and Greek. On graduating from the University, Miss Shaw chose for her subject, The Power of Fiction in Reform, and when graduating from the Theological School chose, Is it the Office of Religion to Drive Men or Draw Them? She was ordained to the full work of the Christian ministry at East Charleston, Vt., Oct. 25, 1877. But in November of 1879 she was invited to assume charge of a movement in the vicinity of Barton, Vt., where she remained until she accepted a call from Blue Island, Ill. As a sermonizer and preacher she ranked high, and her associates in the ministry have accorded her places of trust and honor. She gave the Occasional Sermon before the Northern (Vt.) Association, in 1879 and was Standing Clerk of the same for a series of years."

O. W. Sherwin of Woodstock, Vt., was an honorary first Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States army. He held the rank of Brigadier General in the Medical Corps of the state of Vermont. He was one of the oldest practitioners in Vermont, was president of the Vermont Medical Society in 1882 and 1883, and member of the board of pension examiners for twenty-five years. Dr. Sherwin was born in Reading, Vt., and graduated in the class of 1865 at the Dartmouth Medical College. After four years' practice in his native town he came to Woodstock, and for thirty-nine years practiced here. Dr. Sherwin was a thirty-second degree Mason, also past grand high priest of the grand chapter of Vermont. Dr. Sherwin was a student at the Institute in 1853. He roomed for a time at George Fletcher's. He played the violin. On one occasion the Institute bell rang mysteriously. This lad

sat by an open window in his room, playing most beautifully. It was discovered that he had a heavy cord tied to his leg and also to the bell and when he jerked his leg the bell rang. Such are some of the joys of youth. He died in Woodstock in April 1913.

Charles R. Miller, Editor of the New York Times, became a student at the Green Mountain Institute in 1866. He had been at Kimball Academy, Meriden, N. H., from which he was expelled. He wrote that "Rule 6 governing the relations between the two departments, male and female was simplified by forbidding all relations. Infractions of this rule were dangerous." The girl whom he later married was one of the students. Probably he talked with her, he may have walked with her. At any rate he had to go elsewhere. He graduated at Dartmouth as a good New Hampshire boy should. He did not do any work at Dartmouth to distinguish himself at all. He was one of many boys who do not find themselves till later years. They drift till they hit the upping stone. I have the biography of Mr. Miller. Yes, it's interesting, especially all those adolescent years and the uncertainties of college education. The smell of printer's ink had reached him during a college interregnum. A job was found, after graduating, on the Springfield Republican and under the famous Samuel Bowles. On April 13, 1883, he became Editor in Chief of the N. Y. Times, having been connected with the paper since 1872, and there he stayed till the great call came for the Editor to report at the desk of the Master of them all.

Nehemiah White of Wallingford, Vermont, taught at Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio. This school has been for

years the City University of Akron. He was president of Lombard College, Galesburg, Ill., first teaching there and then becoming president in 1875.

Simon Goodenough, William E. Gibbs, Hiram A. Philbrook, Franklin S. Bliss, Benjamin K. Russ, all became Universalist Ministers. Obed C. Turner was once City Physician for Cambridge, Mass. Edward Conant became State Superintendent of Education for Vermont, and wrote a school history of the State. Samuel E. Adams was Master of the National Grange, William Waldamar Spaulding became the head of a great shoe plant in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Henry Vail who went to Middlebury became identified with the American Book Company and was its president. When he was ready to enter College the following recommendation was given him.

"This is to certify that the bearer, Mr. Henry H. Vail of Pomfret, Vt., has been pursuing his studies in this Institution during the present term preparatory to entering the Freshman Class in College. He is a young man of studious habits, high aims and a good moral character and I cheerfully recommend him as a fit candidate for a more advanced course of study in a higher Institution.

JOHN S. LEE
Principal of Green Mountain
Liberal Institute.

South Woodstock, Vt.
July 25, 1856

Thomas Seaver after graduating at Tufts studied law, practiced in Woodstock and was Probate Judge for many years in Windsor County. Norman Paul studied law,

settled in Woodstock and practiced law. Miss Lucia Jaquith became a trained nurse and served the Memorial Hospital at Worcester, Mass., as its very efficient Superintendent. She was a South Woodstock girl. Avis M. Keith of East Barnard studied at the Institute, then took a medical course at the Ensworth Medical College and Hospital at St. Joseph, Mo. She served one year as an Interne after graduation at the North Western Hospital for women and children in Minneapolis, Minn., she practiced ten years in Rock Springs, Wyo., and more than thirty years in Gloucester, Mass., where at this writing she still lives.

I have had access to many notes, letters and items of various sorts which Swan Dana collected but which he did not use in his history. The following caught my imagination and held my interest and so I pass it along, as the young woman was a student at the Institute. Charles English, a son of Joel English of English Mills, now called Prosper, migrated to Western New York where he taught, then he went on to Missouri and then to California, leaving his wife and some of his children in Missouri. This state was strongly southern in its feelings during the war of the 1860's. A son joined Mosby's Guerillas. A daughter was arrested because of her activities in behalf of the South. She was on parole. During this time she came to Woodstock to visit her relatives and became a student at the Green Mountain Institute. She returned to Missouri and taught school. She registered as Emma S. English, St. Louis, Mo.

George H. Bowers of West Windsor became a lawyer and has practised for years in Canton, N. Y. He is president of the Board of Trustees of St. Lawrence University

and is the most distinguished lawyer in that part of the state. Henry Priest after college went to St. Lawrence where he taught for years. Norman P. Wood after graduating at Tufts, went to the University of Vermont for his medical studies. Practiced a brief period in South Londonderry, Vt., then went to Northfield, Mass., where he lived many years, following his profession.

Two students at the Institute who won distinction, were Edna Chaffee of Rochester, Vermont, and Henry Noble of Hinesburg. She taught at the Institute and then taught in Rochester, and Randolph. Later she became a pupil of Moses True Brown in Boston who was a well-known teacher of Expression. She also studied with Henry Hudson the Shakespearian scholar. She established a school of Expression in Detroit and pupils came to her from all over the country. She travelled widely, lecturing and giving readings. She coached several actors. She inspired her pupils with such zeal that a number of them established similar schools. One was opened in London in 1904. Her graduate students prepared a tribute to her. A book was published filled with letters from these former students who wrote of the debt they owed her for all she had done for them in the way of culture and education.

She married Henry S. Noble who was a physician, devoting himself especially to nervous troubles. He became the Supervising Doctor of the Michigan State Hospital at Kalamazoo. Later he became the head of the Hospital at Middletown, Conn. His work being in one city and hers in another, they so planned their lives that some months of each year they could be together. As long as they lived

both did their work and rendered fine service in their chosen vocations.

A word of appreciation should be spoken for the men who were on the Board of Trustees. They were always representative men from several Vermont towns and at times there were members from New York State, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Ministers and Laymen served. It is impossible to give all their names in this connection but such names as Lake, Kendall, Marsh, Murdock, Drew, Buckman, Winslow, Skinner, Ballou, Churchill, Crowell, Ralph, Bailey, Ransom, Shattuck, Briggs, Porter, Lamb, Wood and many others, meant that the substantial people of the region, were giving time, money, thought to the education of youth, a work of supreme worth.

The beautiful old Academy building still stands on Cottle ridge. Otis Wood was the Master builder and he built on honor, or as another early builder in the town said that he always built by the "Sarmon on the Mount." The bell that hangs in the belfry was once on the brick school house at the Green near the middle bridge. When that building was made into a dwelling house, the bell went to South Woodstock and was placed on the brick schoolhouse but it was too heavy for that building, so when the Academy was erected the bell moved again. We Canfields love bells and their musical sounds. We are interested in their construction. The way they are hung and the bell makers. They possess a special charm and interest. This bell is always rung for the August reunions, so at least once a year, its musical tones roll down the Kedron Valley, bringing back a message of the years and

Green Mountain Liberal Institute, Incorporated Nov. 14th, 1848
Changed to
Green Mountain Institute, Nov. 28th, 1851
Green Mountain Perkins Academy, Oct. 28th, 18[illegible]
South Woodstock, Vt.

their events now past. The imagination can hear the tramp of students' footfalls and can picture the boys and girls hurrying to and from classes. Forgive the paraphrasing of Longfellow's poem.

> The bell swings to and fro,
> It is a voice of the past,
> Of a time austere and grand.
> Ye call back the Past again,
> Out of the shadows of night,
> The world rolls into light.

CHAPTER X

Churches in the South Parish

REFERENCE has been made in the first chapter to the vote of the town in 1779 to build a meeting house on a hill near the center of the town, but this vote was rescinded and no church was ever built in Woodstock with public money.

Dana's Woodstock history in a footnote says that the records of the South Parish Congregational Church were sold for paper rags during the Civil War. Vague references to this church have been found occasionally. The town records from 1793 and into the 1830's, report the holding of town meetings in the South Parish Meeting house, alternating with meetings at the Court House and the West Meeting house. The very earliest town meetings were held in private houses and they met about once in three months. Only through such gatherings could the settlers decide their business affairs.

The most fruitful source of specific information about this early church has been the Day Books of the Ransom Store which was a most flourishing institution in South Woodstock for many years. I have these books beginning with June 1792 and covering the years up to 1797. Elias Smith in his book with the elaborate title: "The Life,

Conversion, Preachings, Travels and Sufferings of Elias Smith, Written by Himself," printed at Portsmouth, N. H. in the year 1816, gives some valuable information about the Congregationalists and the Baptists in the South Parish. The records of the Literary Fraternity refer to this church building, as do the records of the building of the Universalist Church which still stands.

The items in the Day Books of the Ransom Store relating to the Church are most revealing as to the methods by which the Church was supported, through rates and subscriptions. There was little money in circulation in those early years, so the members had to make their payments in the products of their farms. Since the records of this Congregational Church were destroyed, it is of historical value that all these fragmentary items shall be preserved in this book. In those far off days, they still used pounds, shillings and pence. I shall retain the spelling, the Capital letters or lack of them just as these are found in the Day Books. Some words are misspelled according to present usage. All of these things show the habit of the pioneers. When one sees 4/ just remember it means 4 shillings, 4/3 is four shillings and three pence. £ mean pounds.

In June 1792, the Ransom Store charged the Congregational Church 9/ for three quarts of wine. The Store paid Dr. Cheever 15/4 and charged that to the Church. The name Cheever appears a few times on the Day Books. He lived in Hartland. The next items recorded during 1793 are:— The Church buys an old paper ledger. Abiah Rice pays his rate of 3/. Church is credited with one bushel of wheat sold by Francis White for 3/6. The Church becomes a debtor for one gall of wine, amounting to 12/. In May of

this year the Church is credited with wheat in the following manner:—

By Dea Wood ½ Bushel Wheat		5	9
By Eben Shaw ½ do		1	9
By Seth Brewster do		1	9
By Wm. Wyllys 3 pecks Wheat		2	7½
By Oliver Palmer ½ do		1	9
By Zebedee Hackett 1 do		3	6
By Dea Thomas 3¼ Bushels		13	11½
By Edward Church 1 do		3	6
By James Perry 2 Bushels		7	
By Joseph Starlin Jr. ½ do		1	9
	£2	9	

One man sold to the Store two quarts of apple seeds which were credited to the Church. Apple seeds were prized highly for the first orchards were grown from seeds. There were no nurseries from which to buy trees.

Here is an obscure item. The Rev. Peletiah Chapin is debtor to the Store for 6/ L M paid John Hays on Verbal Order, equal to two bushels of wheat in the fall. Peletiah was a Congregational minister and Elias Smith in his book says he was a very solemn man. Robert Knowlton works three days on the meeting house in February and is paid £2 and 16/ if not set down before. The Store pays Dea Wilcocke for ten bushels of wheat and the Deacon is credited with 12/ toward's Peletiah Chapin's salary. The Store on order from Seth Starlin pays the Rev. P. Chapin 12/ but Chapin owes the Store 1/2 for Dressing Cloth and he also owes the Store 4/ paid to Lydia Starlin for weeving. Evidently the minister was indulging in a new suit.

In July, Elijah Field paid his rate of 1/6. He also paid a subscription of 6/ which he had pledged the preceding April. The Church is charged with one tea Kettle 8/11, and one half pound of tea bought by Dr. Cheever. The Church is again in debt to the Store in October for two quarts and one half pint of wine, also for one pound of tea delivered to Mr. Bell, and one cake of chocolate. In December, Seth Starling gives an order on the Rev. Mr. Chapin to pay Daniel Edson. It sounds most complicated but the Church receives credit for this deal. The next April 1794, the Church is credited by one half Bushel of Wheat from Ezra Perry.

A curious account stands against the Church in April. It is Debtor for two pounds Tea 7/6, Cash 6/, Chocolate 3/1 pound raisins. 1 gall Rum 6/2, wine 6/. 1 do Brandy 3/, two pounds W I Sugar 2/8, one paper pins 1/, one P Tope 1/8, paid Mr. Burrows towards three Sabbaths preaching last July, £1 17/. In June the Church has credit for six pounds of flax and one half Bushel of Been. These amounted to 6/4.

During the summer Dea. Thomas buys £5 worth of nails to be delivered to Capt. Cottle to use on the Meeting house. They are to be paid for before October next. He also buys 2m 10 Nails to be delivered to the Meeting house workmen and he will pay by October. The fact that work is being done on the Meeting house, explains the orders for strong drink. Church work and ordinations required much lubricating fluid in those years.

Credit is given the Church by John Ransom paying his rate of 2/6 and his subscription of 3/3. He also paid Elisha Ransom's rate of 1/6. Stephen Bailey paid his rate

of 1/10, Zebedee Hackett his rate of 5/6 and his subscription of 6/. Mitchel Pope gives 1/6 to help pay for Communion wine. John Darling gives two pounds of flax and pays his contribution of 1/4. Further credits for the Church are 4/8 from Jason Smith, 4/ from George Ransom. Nathaniel Pool pays his rate 2/2 and gives sugar which cost 4/4. Dr. Samuel Cheever in September pays 1/6 and a little later, buys three bushels of wheat from the stock on hand at the Store and the Church is credited. A cheese is sold for 3/2 which is another credit. Nathaniel Pool pays 1/6 on his susbcription in October and R. Ransom makes two payments, one of 1/6 the other of 9/. The following contributions are delivered at the Store which were pledged as Donations or Subscriptions on August 27 and are for the benefit of the Church:—

James perry		19 pounds Cheese
½ Bushel new wheat	by	Daniel perry
½ Bushel wheat	by	S. Avery
½ Bushel wheat	by	Nathan Avery
1 Bushel wheat	by	Wm. Ellis
½ Bushel wheat	by	Dea. A. Smith
½ Bushel wheat	by	John Gardner
8 pounds Pork	by	Wm. Lord
1 Bushel wheat	by	Elijah Field
1 Bushel wheat	by	Francis White

The Day Book for January 1795 has the following items:—The Church is credited on behalf of Uriah Holt for work and Beans 5/, Wm. Ellis by Cheese 4/, Lydia Starlin by weeving 3/. The credits for February are 6/3 paid by Ezra Perry. Lieut. Ransom paid Noah Winslow

towards his work on the Meeting house 11/2. In March the Church is credited 3/ from Dea. P. Thomas. Amasa Ransom pays his rate of 16/. The Church is debtor for 6/ to the Store which it paid to D. Bailey for labor. Gershom Palmer paid his rate of 1/6. and credit is given to the Meeting house for Pearl Ashes and cash of 1/7 by Eliphelet Densmore. Nathaniel Pool pays 11/2 which covers his rate and subscription. Amasa Ransom pays rate of 2/. Credit is given for the cash returned by Dea. Smith who apparently had been out collecting.

The year 1796 had fewer references to the Church in the Day Book. Benjamin Mack pays his rate of 6/ and the Widow Sarah Sanders also pays. Humphrey Rood pays the Store £2 for window glass for the Church. Quantities of glass at this time were being brought to the South Parish and the people quite generally were putting window sashes with glass into their houses. A Rev. D. Smith gets his name on the Book. Oliver Perry pays his rate of 4/6 and J. Perry his of 2/6. Amasa Ransom pays 2/.

Elias Smith in his book says that the Congregationalists held their first services in a barn and then bought a house near his father's home to use as a Church. His father's farm was lot No. 6 Apthorp tract South and this joined the Popes and N. Woods' land. His father settled there in 1782. Later the services were held in the school house in the South Village which was enlarged for this purpose. He reports that Mr. Hutchinson of Pomfret preached at times, also Mr. Damon of the North Parish and when no preacher was available, some member read a sermon from Flavel or Whitfield. Elias had a sense of humor, he tells of a Baptist minister who preached a Thanksgiving ser-

mon for them from the text "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not, shall be damned." He laid great emphasis on baptism to an audience of Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Baptists greatly to the disgust of many and especially the advocates of infant baptism." The South Parish had Baptists as well as Congregationalists but the former never built a Church, the two groups worshipped together.

Jabez Cottle and Elisha Ransom early settlers in the South Parish were both Elders in the Baptist Church and could perform nearly all the functions of ordained ministers. A Rev. Joel Butler preached a short time for the Baptists. In 1787 Daniel Hubbard and Thomas Baldwin held meetings for this denomination. Elias Smith tells of these men and also of an exhorter, named Joshua Smith who labored in the neighborhood for a brief period before 1790.

Rev. Elijah Norton lived in the South Parish some years. His name appears on the Day Books of the Ransom Store many times. He married the widow of Oliver Farnsworth who had died in November 1785. They lived on the land which she had received as her widow's right in the Farnsworth property and her children lived with them. The Rev. Elijah Norton is charged with all sorts of articles at the store and is credited with honey, butter, cheese, and a variety of farm products. Did he preach for the Congregationalists? Silence answers not.

The records of the Congregational Church at the Green say that the Congregational Church at South Woodstock was established about 1782. Beside supplies it had two local ministers:

John Ransom, Born Lyme, Conn. Feb. 23, 1748, Ordained May 4, 1795; served Bridgewater, Whiting, Pittsfield, Hubbardton, Woodstock (South). It is not known where he died.

Andrew Smith, Served in S. Woodstock and Bridgewater and Died in Woodstock in 1813.

In these records the church is referred to as The South Church in Woodstock. There are several references to it. In 1802 a joint committee from the two churches was appointed to secure a minister. "Each church to be at equal expense and enjoy equal privileges." In 1805 the "north church" sent a delegation to South Woodstock to attend the "ordaining" of Mr. Andrew Smith.

In 1839 when a Committee was organized to proceed with the building of the Universalist Church, they used some of the timbers of the old Congregational Church. Jason Kendall, Amos Ralph and Richard Hayes were appointed to sell the land on which the Church stood. A search of the town records has failed to reveal the purchases. The Congregational Church stood near where the present school building is located in the South Village.

Deacons and Elders flourished in the South Parish in those early days. The Deacons were, Abraham Kendall, Abel Pain, Elisha Ransom, Andrew Smith, Asabel Hoisington, Wm. Wood, Joseph Cottle, Phinehas Thomas, Charles McKenzie and a man named Dutton and one with the name of Wilcocks. The Elders were, Jacob Holt, Uriah Smith, Elias Smith. Cottle and Ransom have been mentioned already. Seth Sterling was a Methodist Elder consecrated to this office by Bishop Asbury at a meeting in

Barnard, Vt. in 1807. John Ransom was an ordained Baptist Minister who preached for a time in Bridgewater.

At a town meeting in 1793, Plyman Church was ordered to build a pound near the South Meeting house. It was built just above the ancient tomb whose restored walls still remain, and in which is now kept the dynamite for road construction.

The Memoirs written by Daniel Ransom, son of Richard Ransom, Jr. gives the following valuable information: "In 1792 the inhabitants of the South Parish built a meeting house after quite a wrangle, as father said, as to the place of ground where it should be located. Some wanted it up west of the village, a mile or so near a settlement of some of the families of Cottles. (This is the Fletcher neighborhood.) That region was then called Cottle Town, but it was finally built in the village near where father afterwards built his white house (the present Paul Kendall house). It was 48 by 62 feet, with a porch on each end for an entry, and for stairs to go into the gallery. It was two stories high and had a high steep roof, and at first it had no windows. It looked like a barn and the boys often called it God's Barn. It had a gallery on three sides and a very high pulpit on the fourth side with a sounding board over it and a Deacons' Seat at its base. I remember that Deacon Charles McKenzie used to sit there while his family were in his pew. I never saw a tything man there with his long pole but he had been at an earlier time. The pews were large, square, arranged on the sides of the house from the pulpit, around each way to the front door and separated from twelve pews of the same side in the body of the house by an aisle and these twelve pews were again

separated in the middle by the Broad Aisle running from the double front door to the Deacons' Seat and pulpit. The pulpit had a very steep crooked stairs to get up into it.

The front of the gallery had two rows of bench seats around it, with some large pews higher up next to the outside walls so that one could look over those in the Singers Seats and see the preacher in his high pulpit. The seats in all of the pews were on three sides and one third of the people in the body of the house sat with their backs to the preacher. There were no chimneys, so there could be no fires, but some of the women carried tin foot stoves with a dish of live coals of fire in them to keep their feet warm.

I have heard it said that the preachers usually made their sermons hot enough to warm the members, but on one extremely cold day, Uncle Joseph Sterling, after a long sermon, requested the preacher to make his prayer shorter than usual for the people were freezing. In the year 1824 my brother Richard got up a subscription and purchased a stove and pipes and ran the pipes along the aisles and out of the back windows which warmed the Church a little but when the wind blew from the north the smoke came back into the house. The roof of this old meeting house leaked badly and in 1839 the people got tired of it and took it down." This exceedingly interesting document from which the above is quoted, was loaned to me by Prof. Wm. Ransom of Tufts College, a grandson of the writer.

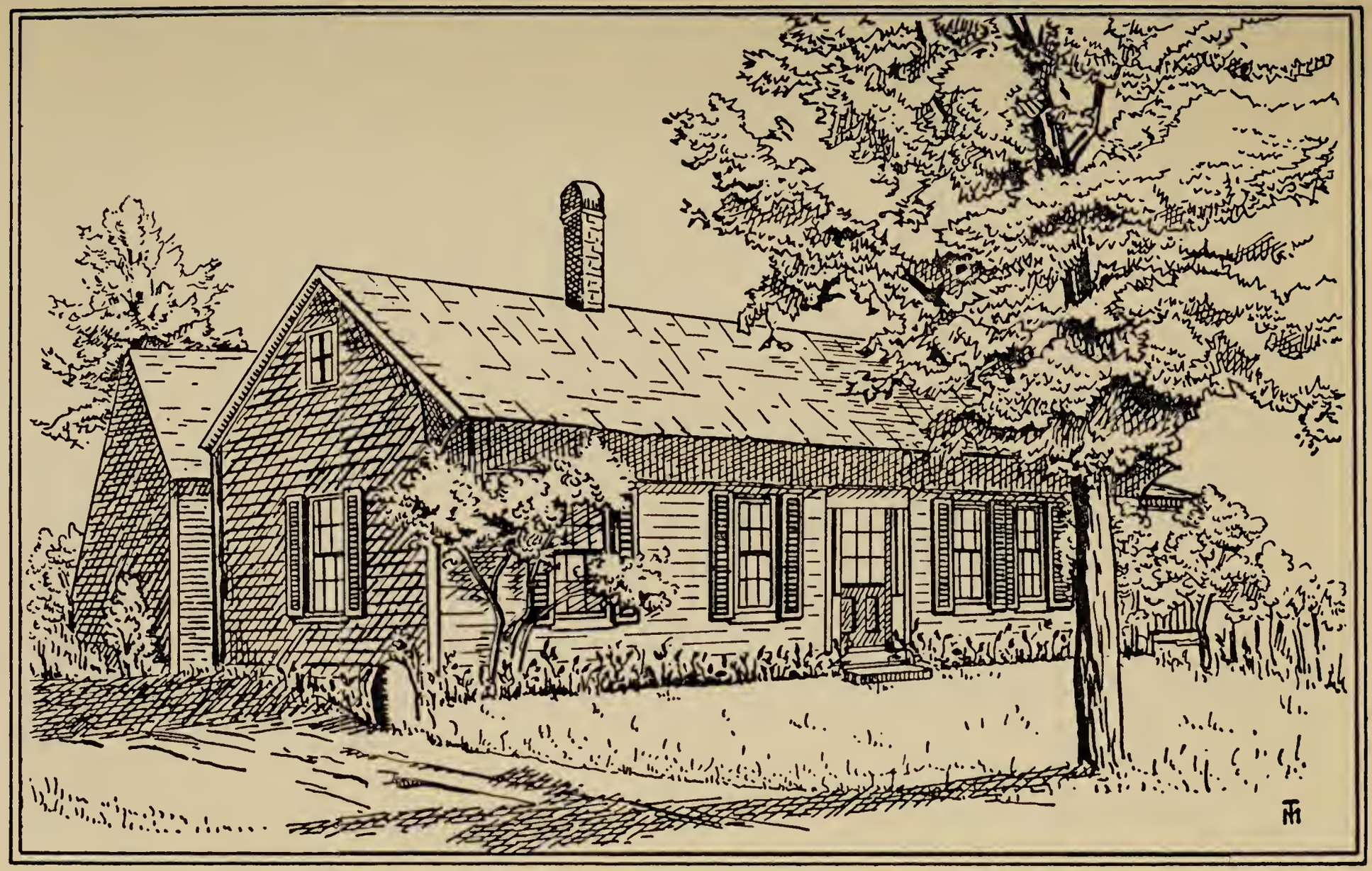
I own an old map of the town of Woodstock "Drawn by a Committee from the Institute in 1832." This shows the location of the Church in the South Parish. The

Woodstock Institute was organized at the Court House in 1831 for the purpose of studying scientific, literary, mechanical and agricultural subjects. They named the streets at the Green and made this interesting map.

In 1807 a group of Methodists built a Church in the South Parish and laid out a graveyard which is still called the Methodist Graveyard and burials take place there, but the Church disappeared long ago. It was simply constructed and resembled a school house rather than a Church. The men who bought the land on which the Church and graveyard were located, were John Ransom, Jonathan Crooker, Benjamin Mack, Elisha Lord and Seth Sterling. A dozen Congregationalists jumped their fold and joined the Methodists when the Church was started. After many trials and tribulations, the Society dissolved and the building finally burned and that ended the South Parish Methodist Church. Elder Ashur Smith and Elder Evans of Enfield, N. H. preached for them, also Elder Bishop.

So many Elders and Preachers of various affiliations evidently stirred the doctrinal broth vigorously, and the result was a great ferment, which is written in the town records of 1800 and duly attested by the town clerk, Oliver Williams.

"Whereas different and various opinions prevail in this Parish with respect to modes of worship and the Support of the Gospel, we therefore whose names are hereunto subscribed, Do hereby engage each for himself and with one another to Conform to the following regulations and form ourselves into a Congregational Society upon the plan herein contained (Viz.), 1st that the Clerk of the Society shall warn a meeting



Once a Ransom store, then the Green Vestry

of the Society in the month of February annually for the choosing of all necessary officers without further notice and all other meetings at or by the discretion of a prudential committee, or at the request of at least five votable members of the said Society.

2nd that the major of the whole body shall rule the minor in all civil matters and lest there should be a question arise whether the building of a meeting house for public worship of God should be called a civil matter, we agree that the major part of the whole shall establish a plan, the Mode or Manner of building together with all contracts for such to support the Gospel by an equal tax.

3rd that No Church member shall be controlled in Ecclesiastical matters in contrast with the Church to which he or they belong (Viz) in the Church or Settling a minister in accord as matters that the Church shall judge to belong to them as an Ecclesiastical body shall be judged and controlled by sd Church Except the building of a meeting house and Making collections for the Support of the Gospel as above said.

4th that whenever any member shall incline to be dismissed from this Society by applying and giving reasons to sd Society shall be Discharged from any further obligation with sd Society.

5th that if ever it should so happen that the Church with the rest of the Society should be so disagreed in Doctrine mode and manner in the worship of God that the sd Society Exclusive of the Church will not conform to the Church of sd Society shall set a price on the house that they may build which together either to give or take but insist on separation when separate.

6th that all meetings for doing business in sd Society shall be legally warned agreeable to the direction of the Law in this State for Town Meetings.

7th that whenever this Society shall see fit to Disolve this Covenant and adopt any other mode for promoting the worship of God sd Society being legally warned for the above purpose, the major part of the whole have power to desolve the same."

The following names were signed to this marvelous document.

Amassa Ransom	James Hammond
Joseph Sterlin	Nathan Fletcher
Wm. Wyllis	Sanford Avery
Thomas Hoadley	John Drummond
Elisha Perkins	Zebedee Hackett
James Gay	Benjamin Russ
Eph^{m} Cary	Edward Church
Nath^{n} Waldron	Ezra Perry
John Waldron	Nehemiah Mack
William Perkins	Jason Smith
Hezekiah Field	Hezekiah Mack
David Mack	Richard Ransom
Lynde Ransom	Phinehas Thomas
John Hayes	John Ransom
John Cummings	David Perry
Crispus Shaw	William Paddock
Benjamin Shaw	Elijah Field
Bernard Handy	George Ransom
Stephen Bailey	Warren Cottle
William Cowdrey	Nathaniel Wood
Stephen Paddock	Benjamin Mack
William Ellis	Joseph Perry
Nathan Avery	Robert Knowlton
David Peirce	Joshua Sterlin
James Holmes	Nathaniel Wood Jr.

Thomas White	John Darling
Richard Ransom Jr.	Nehemiah Mack Jr.
Nathan Cook	Stephen Farnsworth
Andrew Smith	Jonathan Farnsworth
John Hammond	William Wood
Tileman Cottle	Dan Niles

Benjamin Smith

There is no further record of this group. No Church was ever built by them. They must have died in the hour of being born, strangled by their rope of rules and regulations.

When the Christian Church was organized in the North Parish, it found some adherents in the South Parish but no Church was ever organized by them there. They may have had some informal tie-up.

When the Ransoms built their brick store in 1822, which still stands near the Kedron Tavern, they made their old store on the hill into a Vestry. It was painted green and was known in the Community as the Green Vestry. It was used for various public meetings. Reference has been made to this in another chapter.

On March 19, 1839, a group of citizens of South Woodstock met at the schoolhouse and decided to build a Chapel for public worship. The original compact with the signatures has been carefully preserved. A photostatic copy of it appears in connection with this chapter. I have had access to this valuable record, also to the Memoir by Daniel Ransom who was a member of the official committee and of the building committee, and to the records of the Universalist Society. At a meeting on April 13, 1839, the building committees were appointed to proceed with the

The Universalist Chapel

erection of the Chapel. It was placed in a part of Dr. Drew's garden, between his house and the house of Dr. Willard Bowman.

The Committee to superintend the building and let the contracts consisted of Jason Kendall, Gaius Perkins, Ira Kendall, Oliver Kendall, Isaac Parker and Daniel Ransom. The contractors and builders were Galo B. Ralph for the excavation and stone foundation, Marshall Mason drew the plans of the front of the Chapel, for the belfry, the front of the gallery and the pulpit, and with his assistants, did the erecting of these portions. Our town history says Marshall Mason was an excellent carpenter but he was more than that, he was an architect. He was a brother of Benjamin Mason the artist and built the house at the Green in which the artist lived.

John Lake and Hiram Holt did the joiner work and put up the pews. Otis Wood laid the siding and shingles, John N. Carey and Alfred Bell put on the lath and plaster. Richard Hayes did the painting. The Chapel is 42 x 68 feet and when built contained fifty-two subscribers' pews and two more used by the people of the town farm. Each pew would seat five persons with comfort. The gallery at the end over the lobby was for the singers only. The pulpit was low and made of mahogany furnished by Marshall Mason. Three thousand dollars was raised by subscribers for the pews and when the house was finished and dedicated on December 12, 1839, one hundred and fifty dollars remained, an equal amount was raised by subscription and a bell weighing one thousand pounds was bought and placed in the belfry. It was warranted for one year. At the end of fourteen months it cracked and had to be returned

to the Boston foundry for recasting; a reasonable compensation was paid for this work.

"The Chapel has a handsome front with Doric columns, a tower and belfry whose dome is supported by Doric columns, crowned with a carved and gilt acorns." This description of the Chapel and the names of the committees is taken from Daniel Ransom's little book. Where is the gilded acorn now that once adorned the belfry? And where are those Doric columns? The present supports of the belfry are plain tree trunks. He does not mention the beautiful windows with their eighty panes of handmade glass in each one all so bubbly and fascinating.

At the dedication December 12, 1839, the Rev. Russell Streeter, the Universalist Minister, preached the sermon. Rev. Jasper Hazen, Minister of the Christian Church at the Green assisted in the service as did a Methodist Minister now unknown. The first officers of the Chapel Society were, Parker Morse president, Daniel Ransom clerk, and Benjamin T. Bigelow treasurer. The Prudential Committee consisted of Jason Kendall, Amos Ralph, Elbridge Hovey, Richard Hayes and Samuel S. Ellis. The members of the Society represented various Religious beliefs and some with no theological leanings. The Universalists definitely out-numbered all the others and have done so throughout the years. Forty-five of them enrolled at the meeting of the organization. Twelve Baptists added their names, Six Individuals and five persons "not set anywhere." One of the first duties of the Prudential Committee in 1839 was to assign to each group, the number of Sundays it could have for preaching services. This Chapel Society was broad enough to recognize the beliefs of the minority

groups and the rights of those who professed no creed. There is no question but that the large Liberal group was an important factor in this fair and generous decision for they knew the meaning of discrimination because of their beliefs. The Committee gave the Universalists three Sundays each month for one year. This arrangement was theirs so long as the Sundays were parcelled out. The Baptists had one Sunday each month. The Individuals had the fifth Sundays and the "Not Set Any Where" one. The next year the Baptists had only three Sundays in the year and presently they had only one, for James Fletcher is left alone, he dies and leaves an energetic wife who holds aloft the Baptist banner over the one Sunday in the year.

A few Methodists appear and they have one Sunday for a couple of years and they fade away. A small group of Unitarians declare themselves. They are important people, wielding much influence in the South Parish and are the owners of several pews, so they get six Sundays in the year. The Individuals have the fifth Sundays. The last record of these divisions appears in 1858. The Universalists have an average of more than three Sundays a month, the Baptist woman has a cold Sunday in January, and the Individuals have all the rest.

The "Not Set Any Where" consisted at first of F. Densmore and Nathan Kittredge, F. D. soon joined the Individuals and Nathan held his place alone for several years, whether death or inclination removed him at last, no record tells. We admire his stubborn independence. Mrs. S. S. Ellis was one of the Individuals in 1840, the only woman. Later she was joined by Mrs. Lovejoy who by a second

Records
of Meetings

By Laws

of the

Chapel Society

in the

South parish in Woodstock Vt.

Volume

One.

Commenced A.

1839

Universalist Chapel Society

marriage became Mrs. Green and these two women had one Sunday at their disposal.

The Universalists, Unitarians and Individuals were people of intellect, integrity and independent thinking. Their names are found on every document in South Woodstock which meant the maintenance of cultural affairs, The Literary Fraternity, The Social Library, the Liberal Institute, later called The Perkins Green Mountain Academy. They had both vision and conviction and did worth while things.

At a business meeting of the Chapel Society in 1840, the auditors who had examined all the financial statements of the various committees, made a detailed report. It is interesting to note that the men who worked on the Chapel were paid one dollar a day and their board. A woman's organization called the South Woodstock Sewing Society fitted the Chapel out with curtains, cushions, rugs and lamps, worth $70.00, and a group of young men gave the pulpit bible valued at $10.00. At this meeting, the Prudential Committee was authorized to sell the land on which the Congregational Church had stood.

There are frequent reports of repairs, the money for them being raised by a tax on the pews. This was also the method used to get money for current expenses. No names of women appear in the Universalist lists until 1858 which seems passing strange. The old injunction that women should keep silence in the Church was pretty strong even in those days. The women who signed their names this year, were Mrs. Lemuel Benjamin, Mrs. Huldah E. Lake, Mrs. Rebecca Brown, and Mrs. Mary Bailey.

On February 6th 1843, a distinct Universalist Society was organized by the Rev. Russell Streeter who had been

preaching at the Green and the South Village for some time. This organization has been maintained to the present time. As the years sped by, the Universalists were left in control of the property, they kept up the repairs, they hired the ministers. When H. L. Canfield became the Minister of the two Parishes in 1902, a reorganization of the South Parish Society took place, to bring it into harmony with the rules of the Universalist General Convention. On May 1st 1917, after proper legal advice and authority, "The members of the Chapel Society of South Woodstock, met agreeable to call and voted to convey its real estate to the Universalist Convention of Vermont and the Province of Quebec, and take a lease of the same from the said Convention, A. F. Wood was appointed to execute the same in behalf of the Society." Because of this legal transaction, the Chapel in the South Parish belongs to the Vermont Universalist State Convention. The South Woodstock Universalist Society have full use of the property and have the right to let other groups use it as has been the custom since it was built.

The names of only two ministers appear on the records, Russell Streeter and H. L. Canfield. It is well known that the Rev. J. S. Lee preached here when Principal of the Academy, so did Moses Marston, D. M. Reed, both of the Tillotsons, Eli Ballou and the Rev. M. Thornton, Prof. Wm. Shipman and other ministers who were connected with the School. The Rev. J. S. Simmons who preceded Dr. Canfield as minister, preached in both Parishes. During my husband's pastorate we were both made members of the South Parish Chapel Society. Our names are on the records.

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We the undersigned inhabitants of the south village in Woodstock and its vicinity, do hereby voluntarily associate and agree to form a society by the name of the Chapel society in the south parish of Woodstock for the purpose of building and furnishing a Meeting House according to the first section of an act entitled "an act for the support of the gospel" passed October 26th 1798 And we will be governed by the following rules and such other rules as we, or a majority of us, may from time to time ordain not contrary to these rules

Rule first The house shall be built of Wood and on the site between Dr. Stephen Lewis & Dr. W. Bowman and shall contain fifty pews or slips on the plan of which the numbers and prices shall be placed and divided into classes as hereinafter specified

Rule second The prices and classes of pews shall be as follows viz The first class to be of six pews at seventy five dollars each second class eight pews at seventy dollars third class six pews of sixty five dollars fourth class six pews of sixty dollars fifth class six pews of fifty five dollars sixth class eight pews of fifty dollars seventh class four pews of forty five dollars eighth class four pews of forty dollars ninth class two pews of thirty five dollars each

Rule third Therefore, we, the subscribers, hereby agree to pay the several sums of money affixed to our respective names to Gaius Perkins Jason Kendall Benj G. Bigelow Isaac Parker Ira Kendall and Daniel Ransom - - -

This story of Religious movements in the South Parish should have a brief mention of the Millerites who held meetings in the 1840's. Part of them took place in the Chapel where they raved and shouted and threatened. They fairly filled the place with the fumes of their Hell. Outdoor meetings were held on the beautiful hill south of Mr. Cullen B. Snell's farm where some of the Slaytons lived. The disciples put on their ascension robes, one man went crazy and the Town appointed a guardian for him. A good many foolish things took place. After a time they found that they had not gone to Heaven but must still labor on the earth, and the madness passed.

This Chapter on the South Woodstock Churches covers nearly one hundred and fifty years. The beautiful Chapel still stands as a visible record of the devotion of faithful men and women.

CHAPTER XI

Items of Interest

THE POST OFFICE at South Woodstock was established July 31, 1828. A new mail route was created to run from Woodstock Green through South Woodstock, Reading, Perkinsville, Springfield and there to connect with mails for Charleston and Albany. The stages with the mails made three trips each week. Richard Mather Ransom was the first Postmaster in the South Village, but he was elected very soon to the State Legislature and at his request Richard Ransom succeeded him. Richard was Postmaster only one month and a half. He served from Sept. 15, 1828 till Sept. 17, 1836 when he died. Oliver Bailey then became Postmaster and held office until Nov. 3, 1853. Gustavus Lake held the position till June 18, 1856 when he died, then his widow, Mrs. Huldah Lake served until May 3, 1866. Amos Washburn was Postmaster till Nov. 19, 1867, William Wilkins succeeded to the office and held it till April 22, 1878, Manford Wilkins was the next incumbent, serving till May 23, 1881, R. H. Kingsley held the office from July 5, 1881 to May 16, 1900 when Melvin Holt became Postmaster and continued in office till July 12, 1911. Then Louis Bartel became Postmaster and continues to hold the position. The office was in the Ransom

Store on the hill for a time. It was moved to the new Ransom Store, the brick building. Oliver Bailey when he became Postmaster took it to his store, where it stayed until Wilkins moved it back to the Ransom Store. Richard Kingsley took it to his store which had been the property of Oliver Bailey. Melvin Holt moved it back to the Ransom store building. For 25 years, it has been in the store building of the present Postmaster.

The first Post Office at the Green was established September 16, 1797, when John Adams was president of these States. The old files of newspapers in the Williams Library contain a good many lists of letters uncalled for. As I read them I saw the names of several of our South Parish Citizens. They were not accustomed to receiving letters in that manner, for the habit was to send messages by people coming into the far country and Post Offices were something strange.

This next item is quite thrilling. "South Woodstock is in luck. A new Stage route to Hartland will begin July 1, 1873. This will bring the village within nine miles of the Railroad Service." "The Springfield Stage runs only to South Woodstock, arrives there in the evening and returns in the morning. At this date April 10, 1873 Reading hill is impassible." In December 1873 the *Standard* announces "That the Mail Stage now run by Mr. Smith. leaves South Woodstock at half past ten every forenoon except Sunday, passing through Hartland Four Corners, Hartland Three Corners and arrives at Hartland Station so as to connect with trains going both North and South. Returns at 1 o'clock P. M. and reaches South Woodstock at 9 P. M. From one to four horses will be used on the Line. By this route

of eight miles, mails and passengers will arrive at this place four hours earlier than by any other route." The prospective Academy students are notified "That the new mail route between South Woodstock and Hartland, a distance of eight miles, will meet the North and South trains at 1 P.M. and they will be carried direct from Hartland to South Woodstock where they will arrive at 4 P. M. There is no longer any need to stop over night at the Green as heretofore."

The South Woodstock Social Circle has maintained a continuous existence at least from 1860 to the present time. The preamble of the Constitution says, "We the undersigned, believing the moral, social and religious culture of the mind and feelings to be in harmony with our nature and indispensable to our highest happiness and good—and Knowing, as we do the need of aid in the Sabbath School, for the enlargement of the Library, for text books and for the promotion of the school as a school by active encouragement and, also believing the advantages to be best attained by forming ourselves together under the Social bonds of good feeling, into a society which shall secure these advancements, do hereby unite ourselves into a friendly band and severally pledge our sacred honor to be governed by the following articles." Then follows the Constitution and a long list of women's names, also names of men. The Constitution provided that there should always be Scripture reading, also selections from writers who have a real message for humanity. This custom prevails today in all the meetings of the Circle. For many years this Society held an annual Festival. They were raising money to help the Sunday School which needed lessons

and books. They made contributions to the salary of the Ministers. The following announcement appeared in the Standard, December 20th 1872:

"Gentlemen and Ladies one and all,
We invite your attention to a Festival Call,
Just step in that time if you please
For there will be pleasure, comfort and ease,
And the treat we give you'll truly find
To please the most fastidious mind.
But to weary your patience would be impolite
So we wish you good luck, but please come that night."

A big snow storm that night failed to dampen the ardor of the folks. They went to the Festival and the Society took in $123.00. At the next Annual Festival, a drama was given, an original song was sung and a fine time was had by all and $160.00 enriched the treasury of the Circle. The Sunday School was also holding public entertainments, where there were dialogues, declamations and music. Christmas was observed for many years by the Sunday School. The Circle had the assistance of teachers and pupils from the Academy at their meetings during these years. There were various ministers in the neighborhood and and also Chauncey Richardson who time and again gave an original production. The subjects of these are not recorded but once he gave a history of the Christie place on the South road, but I have not been able to have access to any of his papers so there is no data whatever to give, which is a matter of much regret. The meeting of April 1st 1863 acted upon a resolution of regret because of the death of Sylvanus Randall. This resolution was placed

upon the records and a copy was mailed to his wife. In 1864, $10.00 worth of new books for the Sunday School Library were received from Rev. Alonzo A. Miner's Church in Boston and as many more which had been used. Dr. Miner was a most distinguished Universalist minister and citizen in Boston for many years. During these years of the 1860's, Rev. G. S. Abbott and family were living in South Woodstock and they were most helpful in all good works. He spent the last years of his life in Akron, Ohio and was one of the guests at our church wedding. Rev. S. A. Parker was educating his children at the Academy at this time. The Rev. J. J. Lewis who was teaching there, was also a helper in the neighborhood affairs and both Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Abbott were officers in the Social Circle.

The record book from 1868 to 1882 has not come to light while this research is going on, but I have the one from 1882 to 1893. The women are sewing and quilting during these years in order to earn extra money. At one meeting a letter is read from the Rev. Almon Gunnison which recalled his happy student days at the Academy.

This item appears in the report of one meeting in 1884. "It is to be hoped that in the future, dancing, society meetings and other foreign matters, will not be intruded upon the Circle." Some of the Secretaries indulged in more figurative and decorative language than others in writing their reports. Here is one such:—"The Circle met at Mrs. Marshall Jaquith's. After the exercises and the interchange of pleasant thoughts, we were invited to the bower of love and flowers to enjoy a feast for both mind and body, with our hostess and host who graced the head of the romantic table and expressed a willingness for merriment. Again

we leave the flowery land, feeling that age is triumphant and capable of more enjoyment as it ripens into Maturity." The last meeting recorded in this book was held at the home of Mrs. I. T. Fullerton, but they have not ceased, for faithful women continue the meetings and preserve the traditions.

The Grange in the South Parish was organized in February 1874 with seventy-four members. Deputy Boyden was the organizer. E. H. Slayton was chosen Master, I. T. Fullerton Overseer, Henry W. Walker Lecturer, J. W. Smith Steward, J. R. Brewster Assistant Steward, the Rev. Eli Ballou Chaplain, L. C. Kendall Treasurer, F. R. Kendall Secretary, A. E. Perkins Gate-Keeper, Mrs. E. H. Slayton Ceres, Mrs. A. E. Perkins Pomona, Mrs. Marshall Jaquith Flora, Mrs. W. H. Walker Assistant. The name Orion was given to this Grange. On December 19, 1874 a public installation was held when some changes took place in the list of officers. On January 1st 1875, "A reunion was held in the National hall when old and young, grave, and gay, enjoyed themselves. The Woodstock Quadrille band furnished the music. Neighboring Granges participated in the event. A collection was taken for the Grasshopper Sufferers of Kansas and $16.00 was sent." The Grange continues its activities in the South Parish and for many years it has owned the old Brick School house for a permanent meeting place. It is an active and influential organization, having in its membership, practically the entire neighborhood.

There was an organization of the Sons of Temperance in the South Parish in the 1870's but no records have been found of their meetings. The *Standard* for February 27,

1879, reported "That the Rev. Eli Ballou gave an address last evening to the Sons of Temperance in their hall."

The records of the Tomb Society are delightful in spite of the fact that they are about the end of life. "March 26, 1825, S. P. Woodstock. Agreeable to a previous Notice, the Inhabitants of this place and elsewhere met for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency and necessity of Building a tomb in this place." An organization is formed like unto the pattern of the town meeting. Eleazer Parker is chosen Moderator and John A. Cottle Clerk. A committee is appointed to draft a constitution and to find a suitable place for the location of the tomb. Richard Hayes, John Lake, Chauncey Richardson, Gaius Perkins and James Slayton are the committee. After an adjournment of two weeks they meet again and adopt the Constitution which declares that the Proprietors having paid their share of the cost of Construction have equal rights in the tomb. A sexton was elected at this meeting to keep the Key and to open the tomb when necessary and he must be paid 25 cents whenever he unlocks it for the use of the Proprietors. All others using it must pay him 75 cents but the Sexton can only have the usual fee, the balance must go into the funds of the Society. A Prudential Committee was elected to look after the business affairs but there could not have been adequate faith in that Committee for another one is created to look after the Prudential Committee. This one must have been something like the Recording Angels. Three sturdy men composed it, Abraham Kendall, James Slayton and Eleazer Parker. James Slayton was the first Keeper of the Key and Gaius Perkins was made his chief adviser. The Committee re-

ported that there was suitable ground for the tomb behind the Meeting house, but that spot was rejected and then Kendall, Slayton and Parker were appointed to select a proper place and proceed with the erection of it. They should use their own sense as to suitability of location. At the first annual meeting "it was voted that the money in the Bank should be distributed among the Proprietors but that motion was quickly voted down and another one prevailed, that the money should be used to build a Cariage to transport the Ded, and Wm. Ellis should be a Bilding Commity." And then the meeting was dissolved. The minutes were kept by Abel Slayton and he had his own ways of spelling which surpassed that of his neighbors, but all the spelling in these records is wonderful, and it is preserved in this account.

In April 1831 a Committee was appointed to repair the tomb and next year, more repairs had to be made. At the meeting in 1834, they voted "to abate the intombing of the Widow Haines." At the Annual Meeting of 1835, "it is nominated and seconded that we have a comite to bild a Sleigh for the Herse. Gaius Perkins and Benjamin G. Bigelow made the Bildin Commite to Bild Sd. Sleigh." "The meeting was then Disolved by unanimous vote." At the meeting in 1839, the Committee reports that the sleigh is built at a cost of $14.75, the wood work cost $7.00, the ironing $6.00 and the painting $1.75. The records are most complete from 1825 to 1849 and then there is a hiatus to 1862. In 1864 a reorganization took place, a new constitution was written. The names of the first proprietors were all recorded, with the word dead after the names of those who had passed away. The records from 1864 to

1869 were written by Chauncey Richardson in his immaculate manner. This writing is as clear as print. The meeting of April 1864 was held in the sitting room of George Lake. The same sitting room was used in 1866. There are no records for 1865. A second meeting in 1866 was held at the Chapel when it was voted "That the Committee go on and get up a Herse according to their best Judgment and the people will sustain them." The meeting for 1867 was held in the School House and it was voted that the Committee establish a price to non-subscribers. In 1868 the meeting was held in the Library Room and it was voted "That non-subscribers pay for the use of the herse in the summer, the rate of one dollar and ten cents a mile one way. In the winter fifty cents and ten cents a mile one way."

The last meeting recorded says,—"The Proprietors of the Hears and Tomb met February 7, 1903 when a motion was made that the winter Hears must be made longer to suit the new Stile of Bodies, motion carried. Motion then made that ten dollars be used for repairs of Hears. Motion carried." George H. Marsell was Moderator for this session and L. J. Merrill Clerk, N. E. Wood, L. J. Merrill, J. K. Hoadley, Prudential Committee, and E. H. Atwood Treasurer."

The original proprietors were:—Eleazer Parker, Abraham Kendall, James Slayton, Francis Perkins, Elijah Sterlin, John A. Cottle, Isaac Kendall, John Lake, Wm. Wood, Wm. Ellis, Arnold Smith, Charles M. McKenzie, Abner Beckwith, Joseph Wood, Henry Drew, Elijah Roice Jr., Thomas Christie, Royal Cottle, Gaius Perkins, Foster Taylor, J. A. Howard, Isaac Cobb, Jason Kendall, Jona.

Ralph, John C. Beers, Amos Ralph, Abel Slayton, John R. Densmore, Humphrey Rood, Tracy Bingham, Simeon Dunham, Jns. Lovejoy, Wid. Mary Rood, Wid. Martha Benjamin, Amaziah Kendall, Elias Hoadley, Samuel Roice, Abiah Rice, Amos Pelton, A. R. Mather, Levi Washburn, J. B. Farnsworth, Benjamin Mack, Phinehas Hemenway, Richard Hayes, Isaac Parker, Alva Wilson. Total fifty-two.

Later members up to 1864 were S. P. Kingsley, John Witaker, Wid. Betsy Randall, John Upham, Jonathan Wood, Calvin Carleton, Lemuel Benjamin, Parker Morse, Willard Bowman, A. Taylor in his father's right, Ammi Willard, Daniel Ransom in his father's right, James Fletcher, Benjamin Fletcher, Ephraim Carey, Jacob Holt Jr., Leland Slayton, J. W. Cary, Seth Sterlin, David Rice, Oliver Kendall.

And now in this year of our Lord 1937, the old tomb stands intact and the dynamite used for road construction is stored in it. There are no words in our English language to describe adequately this extraordinary transition from the dead to dynamite.

Once upon a time in the dim past a tomb stood near the town farm buildings. Uneasy Spirits emerged from it, and walked again the earth on misty moonlit nights. Believe it if you wish. Reject it if you so prefer. Tradition says that they were really seen by mortal eyes.

At least one graveyard in the South Parish had a formal organization under a special Statute of the State laws, "Whereas in and by the eighty-first Chapter of the Revised Statutes of the State of Vermont enacted on the 19th day of November A. D. 1839, it is provided that any number of persons associated together to provide, hold and keep

in repair suitable grounds and other conveniences for burying the dead, shall have all the powers of a corporation and whereas a lot of land containing 126 Square Rods, situated in South Woodstock, was on the 15th day of July A. D. 1807 conveyed by Elijah Harlow and William Minor Lord to the Methodist Society in the South Parish in perpetual succession for the uses specified in said Deed." Several more legal terms are used, which state that the yard shall be forever the property of the corporation called The Methodist Burying Ground Association. A constitution was drafted and officers elected. The legal Statement and Constitution are in the excellent handwriting of Chauncey Richardson. The record book contains the names of the first proprietors, the names of the men later who bought lots and the amounts paid for them. Marshall Jaquith built a fence about the yard in 1856 for which he was paid $152.32. In 1860, a row of pine trees were set all around the yard and they grew to be a beautiful asset to the scenery but a few years ago they were all cut down.

The organization still continues and the records are kept. There are some funds in the Savings Bank belonging to this Methodist Burying Ground Association.

Zadock Thompson in his history of Vermont published in 1853 tells us that South Woodstock is situated five miles South of the Court House on the road to Springfield and contains a handsome meeting house, two stores, two physicians and a number of mechanics. At this date, there were on the farms in the whole town of Woodstock 15,974 sheep which were producing 39,000 pounds of wool annually. There were 5,179 head of cattle. Thousands of bushels of buckwheat, corn, oats, wheat and potatoes were being

raised. Over 30,000 pounds of maple sugar were made each year. The whole town had 621 horses, 1,655 swine and the population was 3,315.

Child's *Directory and Gazetteer of Windsor County* published in 1883-4 has many interesting items about the Kedron Valley and South Parish. There were then on the farms in this district 3,378 sheep, and 30,800 maple trees were being tapped. There is no record of horses or cows. Farmers were using oxen in these years. Henry Walker, Edwin Slayton and Joseph Smith were breeding pure Merinos. Some of the farmers had grade Merinos. The sheep were kept for their wool. The names of the farmers who had sheep during these years beside the ones mentioned were: Carlos Adams, Edwin Atwood, Alvin Atwood, Wm. Bailey, John M. Blake, Levi Blossom, Dean Cabot, Wm. Cady, Avery Colston, Leonard Eaton, Ferdinand Fallon, Shubel Fletcher, Thaddeus Fletcher, Charles French, I. T. Fullerton, Benjamin Hathorn, Kendall Hoadley, James Hoadley, Fred'k Kendall, Larned Kendall, Edward McGrath, Emanuel Morgan, Oscar Page, Wm. Pelton, John C. Morgan, Charles D. Perkins, Monroe Perkins, Humphrey Rood, Calvin Sherwin, Seth Sterlin, Dana Talbert, Otis H. Nash, Sanford Wilder. Five women farmers are listed: Miss Emeline Perry, Mrs. Maria Perry, Miss Hannah Randall, Mrs. Carrie Lord and Mrs. Abbie Mack. They all owned sheep.

Edwin Slayton and Edward Perry were growing fruit trees. So was James Howland. Sanford Wilder was raising Morgan horses. Emanuel Morgan was breeding pure Jersey cattle. Edward Perry owned a trotting mare, named Susan P. and he was raising horses. J. C. Morgan had Ken-

tucky Pilot and bred some Hambletonians and Morgans. Rinolda Hopkins owned a Morgan stallion which he called Bijou. In 1876 when he repainted his house—the large brick one in the Fletcher neighborhood—a picture of this horse was painted and placed above the central upstairs window on the front of the house. A man by the name of Myron Dimick from Bridgewater did the painting. It is reported that he could paint landscapes. The horse is a gay-prancing animal. Whether the following item refers to this horse or to another one nobody knows. Mr. Hopkins died in this South Woodstock house nearly sixty years ago. "Hopkins Horse" (also listed as Gen. Grant) in Battell's "The Morgan Horse," Vol. 1, page 715, is described as follows: "Dark chestnut with silver mane and tail, 15¾ hands, 1150 pounds; foaled about 1852; bred by R. Hopkins, Bridgewater, Vt.; owned in Windsor County, Vt., till late in life, when he was sold and went to Western Vermont. His sire was Green Mountain Morgan, and his dam a light chestnut mare, said to be a descendant of Sherman Morgan, and J. M. Furman a well informed horseman said, he was as good a Green Mountain as I ever saw."

Carlos Adams, Alvin Atwood, Charles French, Thaddeus Fletcher and Edward McGrath were each tapping 1,000 maple trees in these interesting years. Kendall Hoadley was tapping 3,000. Fred Benjamin was teaching vocal music and holding singing schools. Ruth De Wolf was dressmaking. Roxana Fisher was weaving carpets. Frank Hoisington made scythes. Eliab Bridge sold patent medicines and groceries. Harrison French had retired as a harness maker. Marshall and Henry Jaquith were stone masons and so

was Benj. Ladd. Sally Thompson owned a wood shop on the Kedron. George Weeden, Wm. Fisher, George Rood, Will Rood were carpenters. Mrs. Harriet Stockwell was a nurse. R. H. Kingsley and Monford Wilkins had general stores. T. D. Gilson managed the National Hotel. Jane Morgan ran a boarding house and so did D. A. Gifford.

In 1817 when President James Monroe visited Woodstock, David Mack of the South Parish as Captain of a Military troop went to Hartland and escorted him and his suite to Woodstock where a reception was given. When Lafayette came on his grand tour visiting Woodstock in June 1825, it is fitting to quote from Daniel Ransom's Memoirs who as a boy saw him at close range. "Lafayette was in Woodstock June 25, 1825. Of course everybody must see him, especially the boys. The Military Companies were called out for escort duty and to pay him honors. Early in the morning of that day the sun rose bright but was soon under a cloud. Several of us boys could not wait for the wagons and so we started on foot as soon as it was light enough and we walked the five miles to the Green. Taking our breakfast in our pockets to be eaten on the way. It was not certain at what hour the General would be there, but he was expected about 7 A. M. The Military were to be formed at 6. Before we reached the Green the wagons with the people and the soldiers began to pass us boys and we might as well have waited. We all arrived on good time. The Military paraded, the Woodstock men were called flood wood because they did not have any uniforms but wore their usual clothes. The Woodstock Light Infantry, the Pomfret Rifle Co., The Barnard Artillery were the escort, the last two had fine uniforms. My brother Richard

was the Marshal of the day and in command of all these troops. . . . The Military moved down the street to Farmer Blake's place to meet the General and his travelling companions. When they arrived at Blake's it began to rain, not a thunder shower, but a continuous downpour. Word came that the General would not arrive for two hours because of the storm. The Military returned well soaked and went into the houses to dry themselves. About ten o'clock the Cannon on the hill above Mr. Blake's announced that the General was near and the Companies again marched that way and escorted him and his suite into town and formed a hollow square of three sides in front of the brick dining room of the Eagle Hotel where a staging had been erected, on which the General stood and listened to the addresses made and then made his reply. He could be seen by all the people. There was a stone post at the corner of the hotel which had a flat top and I stood on that. When the speaking was about to begin the Marshal said, "Let there be profound silence." After the speaking was over the Revolutionary Soldiers, many being present, shook hands with their old Comrade. The General and his suite took dinner at Barker's Hotel and passed on."

The few items about Lafayette's visit to Woodstock must be preserved. Here is another one by one of the South Parish boys. It is quoted from a letter written by John Parker in April 1877. He was then living in Washington, D. C. "Among my earliest recollections is of the visit of Lafayette to Woodstock. I was only about six years old at the time. His noble form and general appearance are as fresh in my memory as incidents of the past ten years; the clean streets, the evergreen arch over Elm Street, the

stand or bower prepared for his reception at the Eagle Hotel I remember well." He also recalls that David Watson, the famous printer, was then living in a house where the Methodist Church stands. Mr. Parker was connected with the Bureau of Statistics at Washington.

In 1805 Andrew Smith then living in the South Parish and a Deacon of the Congregational Church there, was formally ordained to the Ministry. A delegation from the North Parish went out and assisted in this service. Andrew died in 1813. In 1802 a joint committee from the two Parishes tried to get a minister but failed. The S. P. Congregational Church was still standing in 1836 for the town meeting met there then but by 1839 it was no more.

The old day books of the Stores have been a constant source of information and interest. The earliest one is dated June 1792 and they continue up to 1798. There is one for 1811. These are all books of the Ransom store. I have had access to one of Noah Woods books beginning in 1813 and covering ten years. He did not have a store but had a busy workshop. He was Noah, Senior. Later there was a grandson bearing the same name. Jason Kendall's day book beginning in 1828 and covering eight years tells of his many activities. His center of operations was his farm and home. Gaius Perkins interests centered in his tannery and the shoe business. One of his books beginning in 1820 and continuing till 1829 reveal the tremendous business he was doing.

It was the rarest thing that anybody paid cash. Of course there was but little money in circulation. One paid for the articles bought, by produce from the farm or by work. Many of the charges are for rum, brandy, wine. Daughters,

sons, wives make these purchases for the men of the families. The stuff was sold by the glass to be swallowed at once or in larger quantities to be taken home. Some of them must have eaten tobacco for the amounts sold are large. Snuff was bought with great frequency. The deacons and the preachers needed stimulants and they bought them often. Winslow Phelps has these items charged one day, 3 pints rum, ½ pint wine, ½ pint brandy, ¼ lb. loaf sugar and some of raisons. Deacon Ransom gets a quart of rum. Joshua Bailey buys two gallons of rum. On the day they made these purchases there are seventeen entries. Ten of the men bought quantities of liquor. The Rev. Elijah Norton buys salt, rum and brandy, a few days before he bought rum, and the process is repeated again and again. Ensign Elisha Lord on one day buys 3 quarts of rum, then 1 quart more, also ginger, allspice and pepper. He was going to prepare a mess to burn up his internal arrangements. Elijah Harlow buys a large cheese, a comb and rum. And so the record goes on day by day and year by year. It is a relief to turn from narcotics to warming pans which in 1793 are being sold to many people. Poplin and crape gowns are being bought by some of the daughters and men buy horn combs. Most of the people made their own shoes in the 1790's so leather and shoe binding are purchased. It is well to remember that these early settlers on the land had learned some trades back in Massachusetts or Connecticut from whence most of them came. They were shipwrights, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers, masons. One man had been making ship anchors. They were trained and hardened men and knew the use of tools and how to fell trees and build cabins. Presently the flax

is growing and sheep are being raised, also grains and the products of the land are exchanged at the Ransom Store for salt and other items which they cannot produce. The store takes every article brought to it. Barter and trading follow, and the Ransoms send their wagons regularly to Boston with the surplus and bring back the many things which are needed.

There was no Bank, but the Store was a clearing house not only for the people of Woodstock but for all the surrounding towns. Customers came even from far away Rochester over roads little better than trails. The Ransoms accepted notes for payment instead of cash. They took notes by which one man has been paid by another. Apparently they never refused a note any more than they would refuse flax seed, ashes or meat, but the fact remains that often they had difficulty in making collections and many legal troubles ensued. The early papers are full of notices demanding payment for bills long overdue and it is little wonder that so many of the stores failed, even this famous Ransom Store did eventually.

In 1793 the people are buying glass for windows and sashes are being made. Logwood, copperas, alum, indigo are now on sale and the dying of yarns is taking place. Looms are making cloth, crude fulling mills start for the finishing of cloth. The daily life of both men and women is one of hard work.

I copy a few items from the books and use the spelling found in them:—Andrew Smith a deacon of the Congregational Church and finally a full fledged preacher is getting ready for his job. He is buying brimstone and tobacco and rum, much rum. His wife buys "Sundries." Andrew

pays his lengthy bill with wheat, labor, ashes and hires out his horse for a journey to Boston and five bushels of Wheat, his credit for that deal was one pound and five shillings. Jacob Holt balances his account by giving his note. George Lake cleans up his account with a fat hog and three bushels of flax seed and he made nails for the Ransoms. Stephen Bailey was credited for a "large Kittle returned." Isaac Cobb pays $5.00 cash. It is entered on the book as one pound and ten shillings. Brewer and Myreck carry freight to and from Boston for the store. Capt. William Perkins pays $9.00 cash, this is a real event. Elijah Field chops wood and hauls it and so pays his bill. Amasa Ransom hauls Pearl ash to Boston. He works in the Shop and gives his note and so settles his account. His tomb stone is in the Kendall graveyard and his first name is spelt Amisa which is incorrect. John Moor is paid for a "Journey of his Cart wheels to Boston last summer," twelve shillings. Kendall Emerson carried freight to Boston for the store. He did this several times and carried heavy loads each way. John Cottle gets credit by lathing, plastering and topping a chimney. He also laid the lath for the store. This means the store on the hill. He whitewashed it. Even with all of this work, he is still in debt over one pound, and then settled with a note—and so his account is balanced. Simeon Dunham hewed two plates and a beam for the Ransom barn and his son works on the timbers two days. Then Simeon gives his note and his debt is wiped out. Deacon Phinehas Thomas pastured sheep, somebody else did the same for oxen and received credit on their bills. Some things which are bought in 1795 are Darning needles, Tea Pott, nails, tea, cupberd

lock, bandana handkerchief, also a black silk one and many made of Cambric, silk twist, much of it, felt hatt, sugar box, spelling book "Set Heneras annotations," two pair women's underleathers. Six pewter plates, 1581 Feet Clear pine boards, dyes of many kinds. Dr. Drew buys eight brass handles and Elijah Harlow buys brass handles and brass pins. Silvester Edson gets a looking glass. Mitchel Pope buys tea, Brimstone, cake of chocolate and a lawn handkerchief. Cakes of chocolate and squares of ginger bread are now in the store and bought often. Loaf sugar has also arrived. Other purchases were Rubstones, Cloth for shoes, shoe binding, one pair of compasses, cod fish, iron shovels, hand saws, files, worsted mits, large sickle, cotten wool, a large chamber pot, an ordinary one. They are selling calico, china silk, moreen, holland cambric, ribbon, melonet, Shawls made of silk, corduroy tow-cloth, Shallone, lawn, woosted gowns, Red cloaks, Buckles, large Hatts.

In 1795 men began to get a shave at the store. The common price was 13 cents, but one man paid 20 cents and another only 10. Articles being sold, were spelling books, raisins, mackerel, shoebinding, skeins of silk, milk pans. John Ransom sells Sall Perry 230 feet of Bords. She is called Sall in many records and her last name begins with a small p. As usual the store looks after this transaction and Deacon Thomas sells 130 feet of Bords. Lemons are on sale, a little coffee, more tea, buttons large and small, Psalm Books and bed ropes. Rebecca Hammond buys one quire of paper, that was a huge amount for two or three sheets were the usual purchases. The Hammond girls taught school early and they were writing

poetry. Paper was a necessity for them. Combs are bought now and then. Dea. Thomas' wife buys 12 small plates, 2 wine glasses, 5 large plates. Daniel Ralph buys 6 large plates, 4 bowls, moreen and silk and he will pay in three months. Eleazer Parker hires the wagon for Carting Hay. Hinges and locks are being sold, also shears, nippers, flints, pen knives, 1 dozen needles, small earthen platter, small earthen plates, small iron kittle. Lieut. Wm. Ellis gets the cash on two notes from Deacon Cottle and one on Thomas Page. The Ransoms are paid for the "servis of Bool" by several persons. People buy chalk, cakes of sope, 2 Skains of thread, Porringers, ½ paper pins, 1 Thimble, 1 large cream pot, cowbell, yarn stockings. A pound of tea costs 3/4. The Rev. John Ransom indulges in that large amount, also one large flowered tumbler, tea canister, a set of flowered tea cups, 6 large plates and a set of cream colored tea cups. Sylvanus Cottle's daughter buys cups and a platter. Elder Ransom's wife buys a "Silk Bunnit" for eight shillings. Daniel Ralph's daughter buys a milk pan, a pudan pan, 2 earthen platters, 1 flowered baker, 1 earthen mug, 1 large earthen bool. James Slayton gets a set tea spoons, 1 Brass Ring, 1 pr. netting needles. Biel Farnsworth by his mother, who was at this time Mrs. Elijah Norton, for Biel's father Oliver had passed away some years before and she had taken on the Rev. Elijah Norton, buys 12 Green Plates, 8 Large plates, 6 small ones, 1 set tea cups, 1 sugar box, 1 creamer, 1 shawl, 1 Sett Tea Spoons, 1 Tea Pott and son Biel is charged £1 8/6. That was quite a purchase for 1795. Gloves, Webster Spelling book, 1 Large Tea Kettle is another purchase. In December of this year Nathaniel Wal-

den bought one half dozen Knives and forks. This is the earliest mention of these articles. He also bought plates and tea spoons. The store lent Capt. Wm. Ellis $13.00. In 1796, Jonathan Kingsley gets his daughter a string of beads. Almanacs are on sale and are being bought. Samuel Slayton buys a looking glass, Stephen Bailey buys 3 large spoons and a large shawl. Elder Elias Smith gets a Large Felt hatt. David Mack returns a Looking Glass. Was that too frivolous for David? Pepper and allspice, are being bought during these years, Jonathan Kingsley gets a looking glass for 3/9. There is an interesting item in 1796 "Jabez Hammond by Daugher for Melonet, wire, 1 sken silk 5/ by Rhoda for Nabby to pay, to come out of her money." That Hammond tribe were independent and individual. Wm. McClay's daughter gets a Light China gown £1 18/6. The old Scotchman was most generous with his daughters. Wm. Wyllys buys four large flour barrels. Various people are selling butter at the store, some cheese and a few honey. The Widow Powers is credited for one goos. Sylvanus Cottle buys more forks and knives. Geo. Lake gets a candlestick. Spelling books and dishes are bought and several necessariums.

Roger Williams' name is often on the books. His clerk, his friend, his sister-in-law, his wife all do business for him. Nabby Cottle and Polly Hammond are buying for each other quite often. So the years go by with barter and trade. People come from Rochester to buy and sell at the Ransom Store. They come from Hartland, Bridgewater and Reading. The Ransoms carry everybody's load, accept everybody's notes, pay anyone's bills by Verbal order, shift produce from one person to another. Occa-

sionally the books say "by over charge," "if not set down before," "paid last summer." They were remarkable men and a few evidences of their taste still exist. The charming old store building on the hill. The beautiful doorways in the white house. The stairway in their brick house now the Kedron Tavern.

Please read this list of first names that fond parents attached to their innocent offspring who settled in the South Parish. They certainly reveal a rather intimate acquaintance with Biblical history. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Israel, Judah, Benjamin, Dan, Reuben, Ephraim, Seth, Joshua, Caleb, Gideon, Simeon, Moses, Aaron, David, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Eleazer, Phineas, Amasa, Jonathan, Josiah, Lemuel, Peletiah, Jabez, Daniel, Ezekial, Nehemiah, Ezra, Hezekiah, Ebenezer, Samuel, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Jonas, Abijah, Abiah, John, James, Peter, Andrew, Philip, Nathaniel, Thomas, Stephen, Silas, Titus, Appollos. Anselm and Clement will do for the Church Fathers and Calvin appears for the Reformation. Some folks had read another sort of history and here are Vespasian, Plutarch, Archippus, and Crispus. Some of the women had these first names: Relief, Submit, Patience, Desire, Delight, Diadama, Abigail, Aurora, Sarah, Elizabeth, Ruth, Polly, Azuba, Eunice, Betsey, Annis, Deborah, Lydia, Phebe, Huldah, Ann, Pluma.

Harold Rugg of the Dartmouth Library sent me the following item: "Isaac Bickerstaff, Astronomer. Town and Country Almanack for the Year of our Lord 1796. Norwich (Connecticut) Printed and sold by John Trumbull, per gross, dozen or single, contains an item on FECUNDITY. Mr. Jonathan Kingsley of Woodstock

(Vermont) now in the 77th year of his age, was born in the year 1718, at Windham (Connecticut)—and at the age of 26 years was married to a young woman, by whom he had 9 children & who died the 18th of July 1793, and, on the 26th of June, 1794, he was again married to a young woman of the age of 25 years, who, on the 10th of April 1795, was delivered of a beautiful daughter. The youngest child whom he had by his first wife, was a grand mother, before he was married to his present one. The number of his children, grand children, and great grand children, are 100." There is no language adequate to express our feelings, about this old Solomon.

It is quite interesting to find a son of these Puritans, cutting loose from their staid ways and becoming what might now be called a Radical. Benjamin Kendall was born in 1799, a time to be a nice Conservative. Newspaper work attracted him. He became the Editor of "The Henry Clay" a protest paper. Of course it did not long survive. Then he undertook to publish a paper in the interests of the farmers and mechanics. About this time a workingmen's party was organized in the state and elsewhere which declared for Universal Education, abolition of imprisonment for debt, direct election of all officers, no legislation about religion, abolition of licensed monopolies, the reform or complete abolition of the Military system. Then he and Dr. Tom Powers edited "The Hornet," another protesting sheet from the political stand point. He and Dr. Tom were not satisfied with the current religious conceptions of their times and so they started a religious journal which most of the community felt was an infidel affair simply because it did not follow the lines laid down

by the Orthodox. Kendall had been in Richmond, Va. working on a paper before all of these Woodstock episodes occurred. He returned to Richmond to study law, but moved to Indiana where he died. John Harding of South Woodstock in 1830 began to edit "The Domestic Medical and Dietetical Monitor or Journal of Health." It soon died, the name was too much for it, at any rate, suspension soon took place.

MEN OF THE REVOLUTION

The following South Parish men were in the Revolution. The list may not be complete. Jonathan Kingsley Jr., Deacon Phinehas Thomas, Noah Crooker, Sylvanus Raymond, John Call, John Darling, Arunah Fullerton, Nathaniel Wood, Stephen Smith, Billy Brown, Seth Sterling, Lemuel Parker, Asabel Doubleday, Samuel Slayton, Lemuel Murdock, Benjamin Mack, Richard Ransom, Abraham Kendall, Samuel Myreck, Joseph Wood, Eleazer Parker, Abiah Rice, Ebenezer Bridge, Ephraim Brewster. He was in the French and Indian War and marched to Royalton when that was attacked. John Call served throughout the war and knew Washington. Sylvanus Raymond and Noah Crooker were drummers. Benjamin Mack was imprisoned. Nathaniel Wood was at the battle of Bennington. John Darling was at White Plains. Asabel Doubleday was at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered. Thomas and Myreck were both officers. Neither of their graves has a service marker. Seth Sterlin helped to build the forts at New London, Conn., and to mount the guns. Elijah Harlow's father died in the Service. Wm. McClay

and Jonathan Farnsworth each had a short period of service.

We have visited the old graveyards of the South Parish: —The Smith, Ransom, Randall, Methodist, Ralph, Fullerton and Morgan. Each has an interesting location. The tomb-stone cutters had individuality but they seldom put their names on the stones so they belong largely to oblivion. In the Ralph yard there are several large white marble slabs, each has cut near the top quite an impressive urn, done in low relief, each one has on its top a flaming torch. A huge old gray stone is in this yard. The ground has a carpet of periwinkle. Here are buried Ralphs, Slaytons, Holts, Persons, Willards, Benjamins, Jaquiths, Hemenways, some of the Kendalls, Abraham Kendall and Ebenezer Bridge were both in the Revolution. Dr. Stephen Drew, his wife Elizabeth and some of his children are buried in this yard, also Dr. Willard Bowman, two faithful Physicians of the South Village, Silas Burdoo, a colored man, who served in the War between the States and lived in the Ralph-Walker family, rests here. The tomb-stone man of this yard had his own ideas how to express the fact that a woman had been married twice. Usually they are called Consorts and Relicts, which always sounds like some sort of gadget or appendage, but in this yard, Mrs. Desire Bugbee, former wife of Joshua Slayton, is the way it is done and this dignified form is on several stones for the widows always remarried in those days.

The Ransom yard of course has many a Ransom. Once there was an iron fence about their lot but it has utterly disappeared. Not only are the Ransoms here but Kendalls, Burks, Logans, Slaytons, Farnsworths, Fallons, some

of the Lord family, Conants, Stows, Averys, Holts, Dr. Isaiah Buckman and his wife Ruth lie here. Dr. Buckman was one of the faithful Doctors of this region. Other old time names are Field, Washburn, Bryant, Cottle, Pearsons, Page, Thomas. Henry French, a brother of Mrs. Larned Kendall is buried in this yard. All his life he followed the sea and when an old man, living with his sister, he rolled when he walked as though he was still on board of his ship. An anchor is cut on his stone and the words "Home is the Sailor, Home from the Sea." Here is an inscription which is quite different. "In Memory of Mrs. Lucy, wife of George Betterly and daughter of Mr. Hezekiah Hodskins who left a terestial for a celestial habitation April 23, 1793 Aged 24 years and 9 mos." A gorgeous Death head adorns this stone. This poem, no, it cannot be called that, rather a sentiment is cut on her stone, it reads: —"A duteous child a virtuous consort gone, a tender mother's left friends and flown and should you walk in her terestial way the path will lead you to eternal day." Deacon Thomas was in the Revolution. Horace Mecorney and his wife Caroline are buried in the Ransom yard. He left the town of Woodstock $500 to care for this yard. Dr. Fred Kendall in recent years has raised another $500, but this money only pays two percent and it is not adequate for the things which need to be done. The first graves on this hill were at the west end of this yard, a piece of land now owned by the Kendalls. William Ellis and some others were buried here. No one knows how many nor the names of all of them. Two or three stones were moved, among them the Ellis one, and they stand within the present boundaries of the yard. Mrs. Edna

Lovejoy, later the wife of Wm. Green rests in this yard. She was the woman of independent mind who joined the group of Independents at the Chapel when the Society was organized.

The land for the Methodist graveyard was given chiefly by Elisha Lord and Elijah Harlow. Elijah and Elisha, what meaningful names. Here are buried members of families bearing the names, Niles, Field, Waldron, Richardson, Hammond, Crooker, Lake, Lord, Mack, Harlow, Parker, Rood, Ransom, Darling, Lovell, Christie, Sterling, Bailey. The oldest stone is for Dorothy, wife of David Bailey who died in 1797. Eleazer Parker was in the Revolution. William Wood, his son Noah, his son Otis, his son Noah are buried here. Their Revolutionary Ancestor, Nathaniel, lies in an unmarked grave on the John Darling farm on Long hill.

The Randall yard is filled with Randalls, Woods, Kingsleys, Murdocks, Bishops, Thomases, Slocums, Vaughans, Billy Brown, Philip Bordeau a colored man, long a faithful servitor of the Randalls, lies in this yard. He died at the age of 84. He was a brother of Silas who is buried in the Ralph yard, though the name is spelt differently. Joseph Wood was in the Revolution.

In the Smith yard high above the noise and turmoil of the road through the Kedron Valley are the Brewsters, Sterlings, Smiths, Houghtons, Sandersons, Peltons, Carys, Dunhams, Seth Sterling was in the Revolution. Piled in one corner of this yard are several stones. They are the ancient gray slate stones. The following initials are cut on them S. D.; H. P. D.; P. D.; L. D. This one also has Rand W cut at one side and then the word Rain. The last

one had E. D. Ebenezer Dike was a very early settler in this section. So were the Dunhams. Do these stones belong to the Dikes or the Dunhams? At any rate they should be properly set.

In the Fullerton yard are the names, Fullerton, Kendall, Page, Blossom, Herrick, Hackett, Crooker, Royce, Myrick, Cady, Smith. Samuel Myrick was in the Revolution. This yard is a beautiful sequestered place. One crosses a grassy field to reach it. A gate in a stone wall is the entrance. Superb trees are on two sides. One looks through a vista of pines and white birch which are very tall and stately, and all is peace and beauty.

The Morgan yard is located on the farm now owned by Mrs. A. B. Greene. The place is sadly neglected. The crashing of limbs from a huge tree has broken one stone and knocked over another one. Others have fallen. Here are Jonathan Farnsworth, his brother Stephen, Stephen's wife and some of his children. Jabez Hammond and his wife Priscilla, the parents of brilliant children. He died in 1807 and she in 1816 and daughter Nabby in 1824. "Frances Consort of Jonathan Brewer died 1828 aged 84 years." "Sacred to the memory of Abigail Consort of Salmon Hoisington who died A. D. 1803 aged 49 years." Her stone tells us that "Virtue lives beyond the Grave." The message on Jonathan Farnsworth's stone is, "The sweet remembrance of the Just, shall flourish when they sleep in Dust." And this amazing statement is on one stone "A Wit's a feather and Chief's a rod, An Honest man is the noblest work of God." There are buried in this yard Wm. McClay and his wife who was Polly Farnsworth, their daughter Eunice and her husband John Fisher Jr.,

also Samuel Craigue and his wife Sally Hall. Some of the graves are marked only with field stones, and these are also Woodstock Scotch pioneers.

In all of the graveyards are field stones marking graves and nobody knows who are the people buried near them. In the Morgan yard at least twenty graves are so marked. As this was the neighborhood of many Cottles, possibly some of them are peacefully reposing beneath these stones of the fields. Two years ago I visited this yard and saw a stone to the memory of a Mrs. Estabrook. I have been there again in September 1937. Destruction has walked afield and that stone has disappeared.

There are a few graves back of the barn on the John Blake farm. Jonathan Farnsworth's wife is buried here. Also Ann Farnsworth and one other. Many of the first settlers lie in unknown graves, also their little children. They were buried on their farms and many of the early farms have been abandoned. Only field stones had marked the places and now they have reverted to forest lands. Noah Wood reports coming down the face of Long Hill many years ago and there finding unknown graves. Near the abandoned road which went north over Fletcher Hill is a graveyard where are buried members of the Holt family, also of the Church family.

At the town meeting held at the home of Deacon Phinehas Thomas in 1786, March 20th, a committee was then appointed to remark on the revisions of the State Constitution and to report to their delegates to the Convention which is to set at an early date. Jabez Cottle, Richard Ransom, Warren Cottle and Abraham Kendall were the South

Parish members of the Committee, who were to criticize and suggest, and they knew how to do a good job.

Truman Slayton in his day was the best farmer in the South Parish and he carried off most of the prizes given at the Agricultural gatherings. His farm was called the best managed one in Windsor County.

"Woodstock, Vt., Sept. 18, 1816. Personally appeared before me Ebenezer King and made solemn affirmation that the certificate by him subscribed, contains the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth before Samuel Damon Justice peace. Entered a true copy from the original handed into this office. Signed Oliver Willard Clerk.

"To all people to whom it may concern, know ye that I Eben^r King of Woodstock County of Windsor and State of Vermont, hereby certify that I am conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms or doing military service." Peter Sampson made the same statement in Sept. 20, 1817 and Billy Sampson Sept. 30, 1817. It is rather interesting to know that our town had conscientious objectors to war so long ago.

The next item refers to Seth Sterlin who lived for years in the Kedron Valley. It is copied from the Town Records of 1808. "Know all men by these presents that I Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, under the protection of Mighty God and with an eye a single to his Glory by the imposition of My Hands and Prayer, have this day set apart Seth Sterlin for the office of Deacon in the Said Methodist Church, Amen whom I judge well Qualified for that work and do hereby Recommend him to all whom it may concern as a Proper person to administer the ordinance of

Baptism, Marriage and the burial of the dead in the absence of an Elder and to feed the flock of Christ as long as his Spirit and practice are such as becomes the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the forms of "Sacred words according to the Established Doctrine of the Gospel. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of May in the year of our Lord 1807. Done at Barnard in Vermont. Francis Asbury." This is attested by Oliver Williams, Town Clerk of Woodstock.

The early 1830's witnessed a good deal of unrest with many conditions. The Workingmen's Party has been mentioned which had Ransoms and Slaytons as members, but there was also the tremendous uproar about Masonry and the organization of Anti-Masonic Societies all over the country took place. Seventeen towns in Windsor County had representatives among the Antis. Of course the Ransoms and Slaytons of the South Parish were active. They were helping to raise money to send delegates to a National Anti-Mason Convention to be held in Baltimore, Md., in September 1831, but only enough money was raised to send one delegate and to have his report of the meeting printed. Samuel C. Loveland of Reading, a prominent Universalist Minister, was sent. He is mentioned elsewhere. Sixty dollars were given him for these expenses and his receipts are in one of the books I have used. This same book contains a lot of legal matters, law suits, injunctions, defaults, judgments. Doctors sue doctors. Stores sue delinquent customers. Neighbors sue neighbors. Deeds are recorded, witnesses paid, estates settled. Life was active and not at all monotonous.

Joseph Conant came into possession of a dollar and went to the store and asked which shall I buy, calico or cotton cloth. The storekeeper said which do you need and Joseph replied, neither but I want to spend my dollar. November 16, 1827 D. Hammond is credited with one pair of horse hide boottees, one pair horse hide shoes mens and by four days work. James Anthony is charged for cloth dressed by Smith and also for a pair of thick boots. A. Wood is credited by cash and is debtor for one pen knife and spelling book and dressing "police cloth Smith." Why Police cloth is made in the hills of South Woodstock is another of the mysteries. Wm. Pope buys a sink for $2.00. J. G. Fisher hires out to work for Luther Pope on May 11, 1827. The record reads "lost half day training, lost one day shearing lost one days training, lost one day at home, lost one day fourth of July, on July 10, quit for haying, returned to work Aug. 21." Between haying and training the work goes undone.

In this land of ours where people change their residences with frequency and the earlier families and their names utterly disappear, it is interesting to know that in our South Parish the name Kendall is now borne by the sixth generation, the name Fullerton by the same number, the name Jaquith by five, and the name Wood by eight generations. All of this is remarkable but the Woods carry off the palms for continuous living in the same neighborhood and preserving the family name of their Revolutionary Ancestor.

A superb flagstone in front of the steps of one South Woodstock house held my attention. I was told that it was a tomb-stone and on the underside was a name and

date. I persuaded a man to raise it and this is what was revealed:—Lydia, wife of Mazah Kendall, died December 7, 1831. Aged 41 years. From which graveyard did that tomb-stone wander away?

I have mentioned that several of the early settlers came from the coast and some of them had followed the sea and others had been shipbuilders and one at least had made anchors for boats. We still have in our midst a woman who was born on the ocean, Mrs. Norris Marshall. Her father was Capt. Roswell Brown who went out on cruises of three and four years' length to get whale oil. His wife always went with him. Three children were born to them while in this business. He made a far eastern island port for the birth of two of them but the third child, Mrs. Marshall, was born right out on the Pacific on the *Barque Belle,* and she was seventeen months old when the boat returned to the old Bay State where the children were left with their grandparents. When her father was Captain of the whaler, *Benjamin Cummings,* he was wrecked on the Massachusetts coast, being driven there by an undertow in a severe storm. Through heroic work all on board were saved. Joseph Lincoln has told of this wreck in one of his stories.

CHAPTER XII

Industries of the South Parish

It requires a generous stretch of the imagination to see the many shops and factories, all briskly at work, which once existed in the South Parish. A pond covering twenty acres of land was created by a dam on the brook, built by Jabez Cottle. It extended from the bridge at Mrs. Kingsley's up to the present Upwey Farm, and its waters furnished power for many wheels. Some one made an oil painting of the pond, which is reproduced with this chapter. When John Lake bought the Edson farm in 1813, he began to drain the pond. It had become somewhat damaged by filling with silt, and its usefulness was curtailed. Several elements led to the destruction of these many industries. The repeated floods did great damage by washing out the dams and injuring the machinery. Then came the gradual growth of centralization of factories in larger centers, with improved machinery, and better methods of transportation to larger markets. The little individual shops passed away before this great overwhelming force.

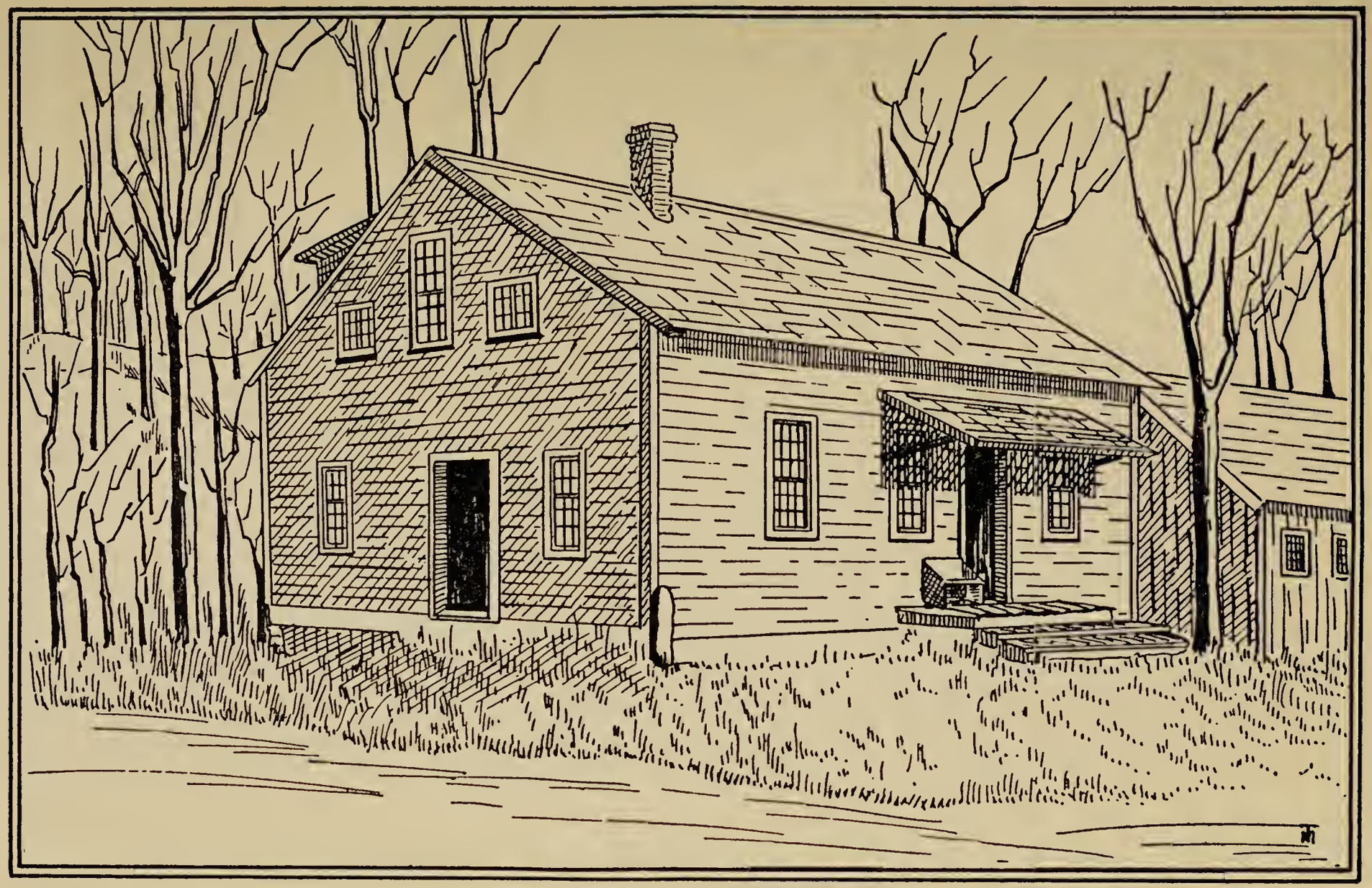
About 1782, Jabez Cottle and Joseph Sterling built a gristmill. This mill was later sold to James Slayton, who took it down and built a new one. The Powers family became the owners of it. Finally it ceased its activities. In

Pond which covered the meadow on the east side of the road and extended to Upwey Farm

1785, Nathaniel Killam built a saw-mill near the present arched stone bridge about two miles north of the South Village. Ebud Burke, an energetic citizen, built a tannery near this saw-mill, in 1798. The next year Dea. P. Thomas of the Pelton district, and Jabez Bennett of the present West Woodstock, built a saw-mill near where the road goes up Dunham Hill. This mill was sold to the Calls who lived in the neighborhood. One of these Calls knew Washington when in the Revolutionary service. The mill finally became the property of Ira Dutton. Isaiah Call made brick at this place. Brick yard and saw-mill have passed away.

Abraham Mather built a clothier mill, near the junction of the old road which comes down from Bert Hoadley's, and joins the present highway. Later it was made into a carding mill and finally became a wheelwright shop under Asa Thompson. In 1779, Jabez and Warren Cottle had a grist mill. This became a fulling mill. The Cottle sons, Jabez Jr. and brother John Arnold, continued the business. In 1816, the mill became a carding mill. Oliver Bailey bought it and set up a clover mill, again made it into a carding mill. Ira Wood in 1794 was making leather gloves and mittens and doing his own tanning.

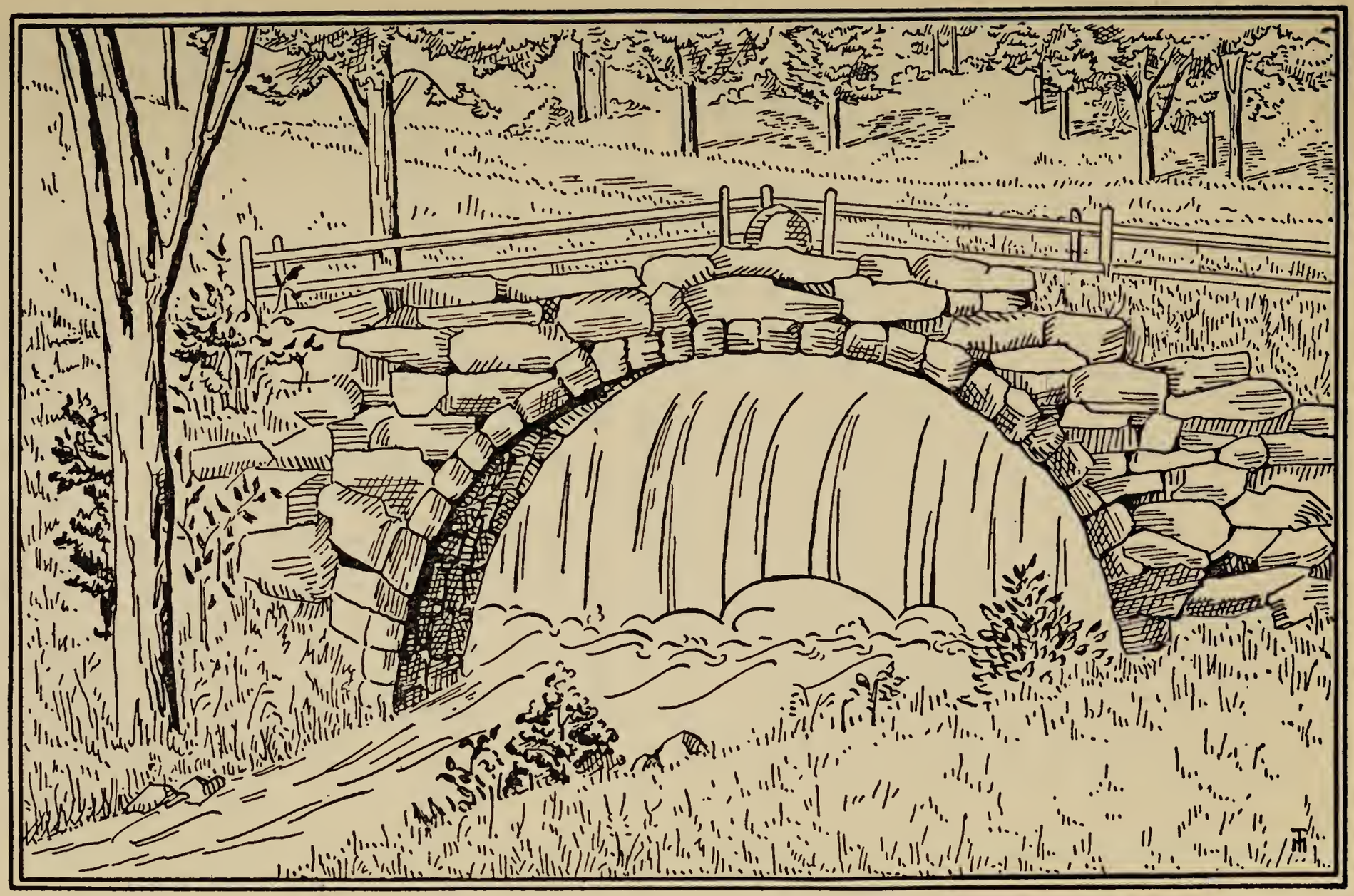
It seems strange that in these years of the floods of antique dealers and purchasers, the names of the skilled cabinet makers of the South Village, should be unknown and no one searches for their chairs and the many articles made by them. Two names of such workmen who lived in the North Parish are well-known, the three generations of Fishers, and John White. Dana and Huntington were cabinet makers also in the North Parish. Nobody seems



Old flour mill on the Kedron

to know them. Ezra Sylvester began his cabinet work in the South Parish, in 1797. An advertisement in Spooner's Journal:—September 1800 reads: "Take Notice. All Persons who wish for chairs, are invited to call on the Subscriber where they may be supplied on the most liberal terms for Cash, any kind of grain or Flax seed. Elijah Harlow, Woodstock, South Parish." In the same paper on April 18, 1803, Harlow has the following notice: "wanted immediately, a likely, active lad, about 15 or 16 years old, as an apprentice to the cabinet and chair making business. For particulars apply to the Subscriber, Elijah Harlow." Daniel Mack became partner of Harlow in 1809. Later Harlow sold his interest to Edward Hayes. These men made sleighs as well as furniture. The business was finally wrecked by a disastrous fire and it never recovered. Richard Sterling in 1811, began to make clocks and chairs. Benjamin Cottle and Henry Lake were making saddles and harness before 1813. Cottle retired and Lake continued the business. Artemas Lawrence was making furniture during these years.

In 1811 Caleb Kendall hung out his sign telling the public that he worked in silver, gold and brass. He made jewelry and watches and did repair work. Daniel Lake, a mighty man who farmed, made tenor and bass drums which were famous. At a later date, Carlos Adams made violins. Daniel Lake's father George, was a master builder, and directed the construction of some of the fine houses in the South Village. Otis Wood was another builder of distinction. He built the Academy, the former High School Building at the Green. He also built that wonderful stone bridge in the South Village which until recently has had



Stone bridge, South Village

no repairs. It was built without cement, the stone cut to fit with the Key Stone. It cost $500 to make this bridge. The Ransom family were the inspiration for it. Two wooden bridges had been washed away at this point, so this noble stone bridge was planned by the Ransoms, and they were so fortunate as to have an Otis Wood to do the work. The town was outraged by the cost of construction. Those folks are all dead, the bridge remains and it should be preserved. John Hayes made saddles. David Bailey had a trip hammer. Gaius Perkins had a tannery just below the stone bridge, where he did a flourishing business many years. He also made shoes. I have had access to one of his daybooks, dating from 1820 to 1829. He made for Nathan Hall, a thick pair of shoes, price $2.00, a pair of boy's shoes, price $1.17, woman's shoes, 75 cents. He tanned calf skin, horse hide, goat skin, cow skin, dog skin, deer skin. Not only did he do the tanning but he dressed the leather so any shoemaker could work it up. Farmers sold their bark to him which helped them. People hired his wagon to go various places; to Royalton, to the Green, to Hartland, to draw wood. Charles McKenzie hired his horse and sleigh to go to Montreal in 1827. He made bootlegs on order and sold blacking. He made Susan Farnsworth a pair of calf skin pumps, large and good, price $1.50. Sometimes, he footed a pair of bootlegs and he mended harness. Foster Taylor in 1822 hired his wagon to go to the Green, and to Alvin Taylor's and Sumners, to Windsor, to Will Burk's, to Hatches.

One item against Taylor reads "to use of waggon to the Green for yourself, your wife and your daughter, 25 cents." Mrs. Taylor once had it all by herself.

Along in 1822, pumps became fashionable and he had orders for many pairs, price for them was 84 cents. People bought leather for "Martingells." I like that word and its incorrect spelling. Dr. Buckley Taylor came from some place to do business at the tannery. Dr. Willard Buckman and Dr. Stephen Drew were his patrons. Dr. Drew had an arrangement made to carry vials in. The Captains, the Widows, the Doctors, and all the people round about, did business with Gaius, they paid him with farm produce, meat skins, some cash and notes. All these years, he was a Justice of the Peace, looking after deeds, marrying folks, holding his Courts. An energetic and busy man.

Jason Kendall at his home place, carried on many lines of business. He made huge amounts of cider which he sold, he cut timber and sold it, he sold grass seed and all sorts of products of his fields, also beef and mutton in large quantities. He loaned men the use of his cider mill and they paid in work. He was administrator of many estates, his record book from 1828 to 1841, gives the details of such transactions. He looked after the poor and found boarding places for them. He had clothing made for various persons. Joel Meachem got a pair of woolen mittens, pantaloons and frocks, also trimmings for a Surtout, whatever that may be, he had a Spencer made and a cotton shirt. He sold Ruth Spooner crockery, iron ware and two meal bags. He boarded whole families and parts of families. He sold window lights and sinks. He sold bricks, where did he get them? There was a brick yard near the old Ralph house, one on the Standish place, one down the Kedron Valley, one a little west of Taftsville on the hill road, and at least one in Windsor for I have

found records of brick being hauled from there. He sold soap by the barrel and half barrel, also applesauce by the barrel, that sounds impossible but Jason, I am sure, told the truth. It was boiled cider applesauce without a doubt. He made cotton pants, a cotton frock, Kersey pants, one cotton handkerchief for J. G. Hadley, also made for the Hadley household, sheets at 50 cents a pr.

In 1838 he had 115 sheep sheared, and got 402 pounds of wool. He had graves dug for the indigent when they passed away. He superintended work on the highway. His men prepared the ground for the foundation of the present Universalist Chapel in 1839. He bought some of the timber of the old meeting house. He directed the final removal of it. He paid Mr. Mason $20 for the mahogany which was used for the chapel pulpit. He travelled to surrounding towns on business for Woodstock. What stalwart men there were. Surely there were Giants in those days, in this land of ours.

Those pioneering men knew how to do many things in addition to their farming. Jonathan Farnsworth raised hundreds of bushels of apples yearly. Sylvester Edson Sr. was a stone mason and shoemaker. Samuel Wood was a Justice of the Peace, town surveyor, grand juror, selectman, overseer of the poor and school superintendent. Jonathan Kingsley was a surveyor. The first Randall was a shipwright in Pembrooke, Mass., up here he farmed and built houses. Most of the men knew how to make sturdy shoes. The women spun and wove, brewed and baked and bore many children. Birth control was unknown. Blacksmith shops were numerous of course, in those days horseshoeing was only one item among many. In a blacksmith

shop, wagons and sleds were made, all sorts of farm tools constructed. Open fires and brick bake ovens had to have special appliances, door hinges and latches were required, nails were made. A blacksmith shop was a wonderful institution. Joseph Sterling an early settler was a skilled mechanic, he invented an apple parer. He was busy all the time making farm tools. His son Seth inherited his skill and worked at his trade till he became a Methodist preacher and had to spend his time exhorting. Lydia his mother wove cloth and did tailoring. She was a busy woman who ate not the bread of idleness. A shop stood near the Noah Crooker place. Shoes were made, spinning and weaving were carried on. Silas Thomas over there on Long Hill made rolling pins, mortars and pestles, wooden shoe lasts, spinning wheels.

Ansel Cowdry who is mentioned elsewhere, while occupying his log cabin, beyond the present Geo. Fullerton place, cut down a big tree, gouged a hole in the center and with a stake, found that he could grind his grains and need not travel long distances to a mill. When he lived in the South Village, he made baskets from splints which he prepared. A descendant of his at the Green, now owns thirteen of these wonderful baskets. Some times he made them so that they were water tight. The Indians could make such baskets and so could Ansel Cowdry who came to Woodstock from Hartford, Conn. Rachel Pelton wove coverlets and linen sheets. The farmers raised flax and had sheep in those distant days. The Clarks and the Fishers made rag carpet and it is to be seen in several houses in the Village at this time. I saw only a few days ago one of Rachel's coverlets, made of wool and linen.

A day book of Noah Wood Sr., covering ten years beginning with March 1813, contains interesting items. He mended shoes for many people "he tapped and heel tapped." He set squares of glass and made window frames, he covered buildings and framed them. He made a little coffin for John Anthony. He made wash tubs, whiffle trees, stone boats, shovel handles. He made meal chests, cheese chests, tables and chairs. He hewed and framed a house for Dea. George Thompson and charged $12.00. He made a "fall leaf table for Noah Crooker for $5.00 to be paid in women's work." He hired many people to work for him. Among them, Silas Thomas, the rolling pin man. He took orders for coats and Sarah Farnsworth made them. He filled orders for jacket patterns. He made a clock reel and a table for Thomas Barker. John Cottle dressed cloth for him which he sold to customers. He had wool carded and mittens knit, also stockings and men's short stockings. And when he passed away, his son Otis carried on many of the phases of the work. Otis plastered houses, made coffins, hubs for wagon wheels, put up buildings, did stone work. This father and son possessed business acumen, and a decided skill for all sorts of crafts and all kinds of construction.

Apple trees flourished on the hill sides a century and more ago. Blights and bugs were unknown. Cider mills were numerous and strong drink was made. Coopers were busy making barrels to store the stuff. Those vigorous men worked hard, drank hard and many of them prayed hard, impelled to the latter act by the driving force of their early Calvinism.

NOAH WOOD'S STORY

At this point I intend to use an article written by Noah Wood, a grandson of that other Noah. He wrote it for the Social Circle in South Woodstock on "The Old Woodstock Water Powers." All of these mills are gone now for this sketch was written a good many years ago. "Settlers in Curtis Hollow were mostly an agricultural people. Nearness to Bridgewater and Woodstock mills forbade using power of this stream to any great extent. A fine power near the mouth of this brook was used for a fulling mill, later was used by Benjamin Lear, and is still in use by his successors. A cider mill on the farm of Francis Curtis was kept in commission through nearly three generations; a distillery was near by Bridgewater village. The brook in the Crooker valley was made to turn the wheels very early in the settlement of the country. A sawmill, below where the Bridgewater road crosses the stream, was its location, owned by a Mr. Phelps, who was quite a business man, who kept a team on the road nearly all the time in freighting produce and his potash and pearlash to Boston, returning with supplies for his store and blacksmith shop. Some ways above the mill a Mr. Thomas had a carpenter shop and power for a bench saw and lathe. One day in winter some of his apprentices, not having much to do, joined forces with the blacksmith, took the old sow down and shod her. When Thomas came home she proved to her owner the falsity of the adage of the lack of independence of swine by leisurely walking over the ice on the pond as if nothing unusual was happening. Below the saw mill was another mill that did business for

a while and later near the mouth of the stream, a Mr. Raymond had a water power—a lazy saw it was called. All of these powers have been abandoned. A cider mill at the Crooker place did quite a business, for fine fruit grew there and a great abundance of it. One of the attractions of the then new country was the way all fruit trees flourished. No power was ever used on the Darling brook. A lazy sawmill was erected on the Sherwin or Ralph brook, where it joins the Page stream, by L. Ransom's. Afterwards it was moved to the L. Ransom's farm and thence to the Spaulding branch of the Kedron.

A dam was built by the Pope brothers below the Andrew Smith farm and the power was used to turn a grindstone, that weary labor to which all farmers' boys used to be elected before they were strong enough to swing a scythe effectively. The youngest, Walton, came near losing his life in the pond when it first filled. He slid down on the sloping rock bottom beyond his depth and when he began to flounder about his brothers thought he was at play and made-believe strangling, but the writer saw it differently, swam across and pulled him out ere it was too late. He shunned that side of the pond ever after.

Otis Wood had a sash and door shop where he lived so long; used to make in winter, doors and window sashes for the jobs he did in summer, doing all the work by hand. He made coffins also. When he built the new school house in District 18 he took the old one in part payment and, building a dam on the stream in front of the new school house (the mudsill can be seen there yet) he secured power, built an overshot wheel of 14 feet diameter and had planing, tenoning and sash machines, bench saws and

lathe. All the pine he used he had to draw from Sumner's Mills in Hartland. In the old shop still standing, he made the window sash for the Gun shop at Windsor, and helping on that job was the first work with tools that I remember of doing. I had the promise of going with him when he delivered a load so I was busy helping what I could when not in school. As I rode with him we passed the Hammond foundry and as they were "pouring" that day I then learned that iron could be made to flow like water.

Below Otis Wood's place in the pasture now owned by Sanford Wilder, Bailey & Morse used to have a brick kiln in which much of the brick used in this vicinity were made. Farther down the stream David Mack had a sawmill. The old retaining bank walls on either side of the stream at its site still tell how much of heavy toil was necessary to secure it. Below that was the gristmill. The last time I was on the stream some of the stone and logs of the dam still remained. The wheel was of a kind much used then in Massachusetts. The settlers here were familiar with them and could make nearly all from lumber ready at hand. This kind of wheel, known as a tub wheel, might be called parent of the present-day improved turbine, for it secured much power from a small stream of water. Below this on the Kedron, Gideon Barnes built a sawmill. The water of the pond set back nearly to the grist mill and by the rush of water in spring and fall gravel was deposited, destroying the fall, and the grist mill went out of business. Some of the older residents still remember the pile of rocks on the left side of the road south of Sanford Wilder's, as "grist-mill-knoll."

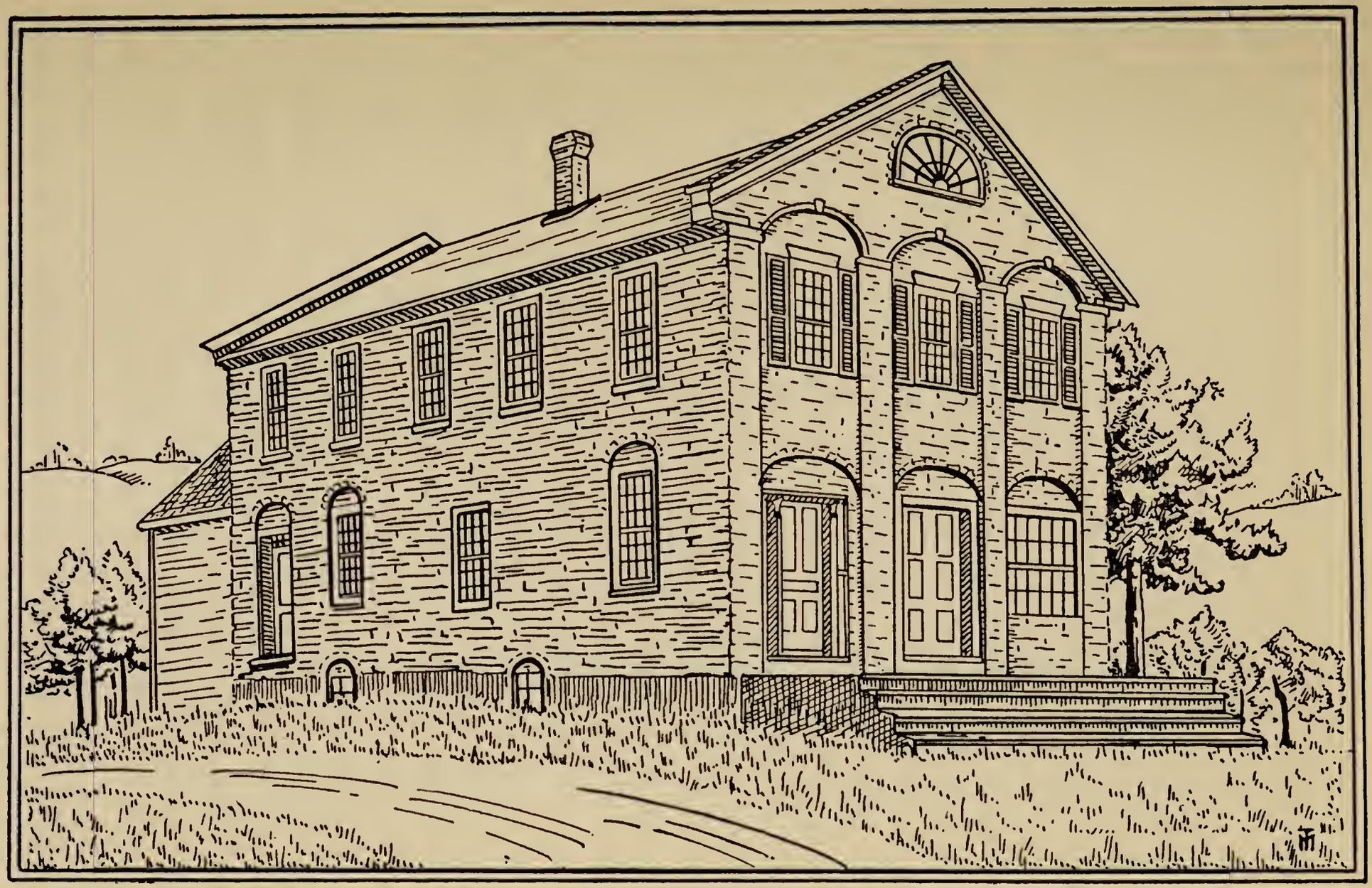
Bailey & Morse owned a water power by the Oliver Bailey store, now Mrs. R. H. Kingsley's house. Here was a wool-carding machine, a fulling mill where the cloth of domestic manufacture was made into broadcloth with no shoddy in it. On the east side of the stream was a sawmill and below that a distillery where rum and cider brandy were made. This was succeeded by a starch factory in the time of the great potato rot, the mash tubs being used for settling vats. The wheel for the carding and fulling mill was a breast wheel, the first I ever saw that had a gear on the outside of the rim and a pinion. A great wonder it used to be to me how they could keep it from freezing in winter. The wheel at the distillery was a tub wheel and water was carried in a canal close to the bank and under the sawmill from the dam, the mudsill of which is yet to be seen. Just above the stone bridge was a dam. A flume from the south side went to the gristmill run by an overshot wheel of about twenty feet diameter; and from the north side to a breast wheel that gave power to grind bark and mill hides of the tannery that used to employ ten or fifteen men. Owing to lack of power and inability to buy the right to the stream, the owners, Perkins and Standish, bought the last power on the Kedron and moved their works to Woodstock which was a great loss for South Woodstock to bear. Below the tannery was a sawmill but its life was short from lack of yard room for logs and lumber. Below that was the Drew mill, which has been rebuilt lately with a modern equipment, circular saw, etc. Below that was the fulling mill afterwards changed to a wheelwright's shop and the necessary machinery. No other mill

An ancient sawmill, on the Paul Kendall farm

till the site of Dutton's sawmill is reached, thence to a dam in Woodstock above Central St., sash, blind and door shop one side of the stream, succeeded by a gun shop and iron working machinery, sash and doors the other side, till right of power was bought by the town and the dam demolished. Below Pleasant street is the above mentioned power of Perkins & Standish. All these powers are discontinued now but three: The Powers gristmill, the Drew sawmill, both owned by Geo. M. Rood, and the last one on the stream, sash, blind and door factory, general stock of mouldings and all kinds of building lumber, of I. & E. I. Benson.

The brook coming in below Wm. Cady's was never made to labor, neither was the one coming in at Sanford Wilder's, but the one coming in at the South Village had to work as it came, turning wheels to grind bark and mill hides opposite where Ernest Weeden now lives. There was for some time a sweep horse power at the corner across the road from the house now owned by Lucian Morgan, a wheelwright's shop, bench saws, lathe, planing machine and scroll saws, a blacksmith shop and an expert steel worker, carriage and sleigh ironer, etc.

When the country was new, all thought that fruit would be in demand. Orchards were set, there were no grafted trees available, only those grown from seed and in time there was an excess of apple stock. A cider mill at Abiah Rice's (Capt. Smith's place), one at the Kingsley place (where Geo. Fullerton now lives), at the Bridge place, Fernbrook farm, Ralph place (this farm alone reported to have picked of its own fruit one year 600 barrels



The third store built by the Ransoms, 1822

of apples), Jason Kendall's place, Royce place (where Robt. White now lives), and I presume others down the valley. A distillery on the flat south of Bridgewater, another in front of what is now the Town house, with the above mentioned one of Bailey & Morse, managed to use up all the alcoholic cider that was left after filling the calls for vinegar stock and drink for the thirsty.

Ezra Fuller, when he came to see his aunt, Susannah Wood, put in his knapsack at Kingston, Mass., fifty apple trees and came on foot. Some of the trees are yet standing on what was the Darling farm. I cut down the last one that stood on my farm, the Deacon Wood place. We of the present day, with our good roads and autos, would think such a walk a very grievous undertaking. These are but few of the industries of former days in these valleys. Baseball, golf and tennis were then unknown but every house was a hive of industry with no drones. From the girl of six, spinning flax on the little wheel to the old ladies of ninety, quietly knitting by the fireside. The log rollings, raisings, huskings, trainings, etc., furnished excitement and cultivated the muscle of the men.

Work of the world was being done, while the most enduring occupation was raising and training the workers to a life of usefulness and independence. My communication is I fear getting too lengthy but I must mention the cabinet and furniture factory of two stories of John Lake that stood just south of Mr. Billings' shop. The nice dovetail and match work done there when I was a lad was a marvel to me, also the pot and pearl ashery of the Ransom's, rear of what is now the post office. The old kettles

of which are scattered over town as water reservoirs for our teams."

Would it not be interesting to meet all these folks, talk with them and share in their vision and their enterprise? Our South Parish was a busy region. All hail to those brave men and women.

CHAPTER XIII

Family Portraits

Billy Brown and his good wife Rebecca Ellis died within seven weeks of each other. Aged 87 and 80 years. Major Brown was the son of Thomas and Hannah Lovel Brown of Middleboro, Mass. The father was a sea-faring man and during the Revolution, was captured by the British and taken to Halifax but he succeeded in escaping. Major Brown's father and mother, also his grandparents came to Woodstock with ox teams and bought the Pool farms on the hill road north of the South Village, and there he built the stone house. He was twice a representative for Woodstock in the Legislature.

Sylvester Edson of Brookfield, Mass., came to Woodstock in 1782 and settled first on the Hartland line. Part of his farm lay south of the land owned now by Robert Parker. Later he bought a small farm of Wm. Ellis and built a large brick house which was sold to John Lake and later burned. This is the site of Owen Moon's house. They had seven children, the son Sylvester became the owner of much land in Woodstock, and was the builder of many residences and stores. The family were quite outstanding and "stood in the front rank of Society in this vicinity." I have an oil painting of Sylvester the 2nd done in 1827. It is to be placed in some museum.

James Harwood the first one to come to America, settled in Sutton, Mass. His son James perhaps English born, married Eunice Brooks and settled in Woodstock in 1769. He was the third settler in the town. His house was at the end of the first hill road on the South Branch. They had five children, two little boys died, one was buried on the farm, the other in the yard on the Quechee which was destroyed by the flood of 1811. His daughter Betsy married John M. Call and her daughter married a son of Hatzel Pelton and were the parents of Mrs. Betsy Pelton Soule. Harwood died in 1805 and his wife in 1809 or 10.

Joseph Wood of Middleboro, Mass. was one of the eleven sons of Ichabod Wood. He served two campaigns in the Revolution and settled on the hill road, to South Woodstock, buying his land of Ebenezer Kingsley in 1786. Wood received a pension for his services. His son Samuel lived in the house his father had built. He was a prominent man in the town.

Joseph Sterling came from Lyme, Conn., in 1781. His wife was Lydia Ransom. He was a useful citizen, being a mechanic, he made all sorts of farm implements. There were four sons and three daughters in the family. His son Seth who became a Methodist preacher, married seventy-one couples and was married three times himself.

Three Farnsworth brothers settled in Woodstock coming from Groton, Mass. having settled for a brief time in Charleston, N. H. Jonathan's first deed is dated 1774, and his land is located in Cumberland County, Province of New York. The deed was written by Crean Brush, that strange figure of those years, an Irishman by birth, a land speculator, a dashing sort of chap. A copy of that deed is

in this book. Cumberland County, Province of New York is just plain Windsor County, Vermont. Jonathan and Stephen bought three hundred acres. They covered all of that hill side where the town farm has been, where the Blakes and the Woods live. Oliver settled near the center of the town. Their sister Relief married Warren Cottle. Jonathan was a famous farmer, he had large apple orchards and sometimes gathered 1,500 bushels of apples in a season. Sometimes he had 100 hogs, raised much grain and often had forty men working for him. His first cabin was up on the hill side, the second one was near the corn barn on the Blake farm and later, the frame house was built. His first wife was Martha Cottle, his second one, Martha Brewer, both Pioneer names. The Blake family are descendants of Jonathan.

Oliver died before 1800. This item is copied from the *Standard* of August 12, 1875. "Wm. Farnsworth, Mrs. Eliza W. Guilford and Mrs. Augusta M. Stone, children of Oliver Farnsworth, who had moved West. After an absence of sixty years are visiting in Woodstock at the home of Wilson Parker at the head of the Park and will be glad to see their friends."

Ephraim Brewster, a Mayflower descendant, came to Woodstock from Preston, Conn., in 1775 and bought over 300 acres of land in the Valley of the Kedron which was then called the South Branch. His wife was Marjory Parks. Their six children settled near them. Polly married Seth Sterlin. Paul married Rachel Styles. Sally married Wm. Bramble. Seth married Dolly Green. Ephraim married Augusta Crafts. The name like many others has passed from our midst. Ephraim was a thrifty farmer and he also

grew large quantities of apples. A few descendants with other names still live here.

Dr. Stephen Drew came from Scituate, Mass., in 1788. He studied medicine with Dr. Stephen Powers, the first physician in this town. Dr. Drew and his wife Elizabeth Williams had six children. Dr. Drew was the first physician in the South Parish. They were the grandparents of Mary Ann Kendall, Abba Willard, Elizabeth Storrs and the brother Henry French, well known and much loved in South Woodstock.

Levi Blossom came from Bridgewater, Mass., at an early date. He was the father of nine children. He named one son Levi and there was a grandson Levi. His son Charles was the father of Mrs. Townsend and the grandfather of Mrs. Anna Richmond. One daughter was Mrs. Abigail Bishop. He bought in 1804 the farm now owned by Mr. E. G. Bailey not far from the so-called new reservoir. Abigail Herrick wife of Levi Blossom 3rd, died in 1900 and is buried in the Fullerton graveyard.

George Lake was born in Topsfield, Mass. His wife was Sarah Lovejoy. They settled in the South Parish in 1779, on two hundred acres of land which he bought of Ebenezer Curtis who was the agent of the confiscated land. Eight children were born to them of whom the son Daniel seems to have been the best known. He succeeded his father on this farm where he was a prodigious worker. The *Standard* says of him at the time of his death in April 1874 when he was ninety years old, that he had cleared 300 acres of land, had made millions of shingles, that with his scythe he once cut six acres of hay in one day, that he had made thousands of sap buckets and tubs, also snaths

and in his leisure, he made both snare and bass drums, and he painted his wife's portrait. For some reason he died in Bridgewater. There were other Lakes in the South Parish probably his brothers or nephews. George Jr. and John were surely his brothers, but Gustavus and Henry may have been nephews. Our vital statistics are sadly lacking until recent years.

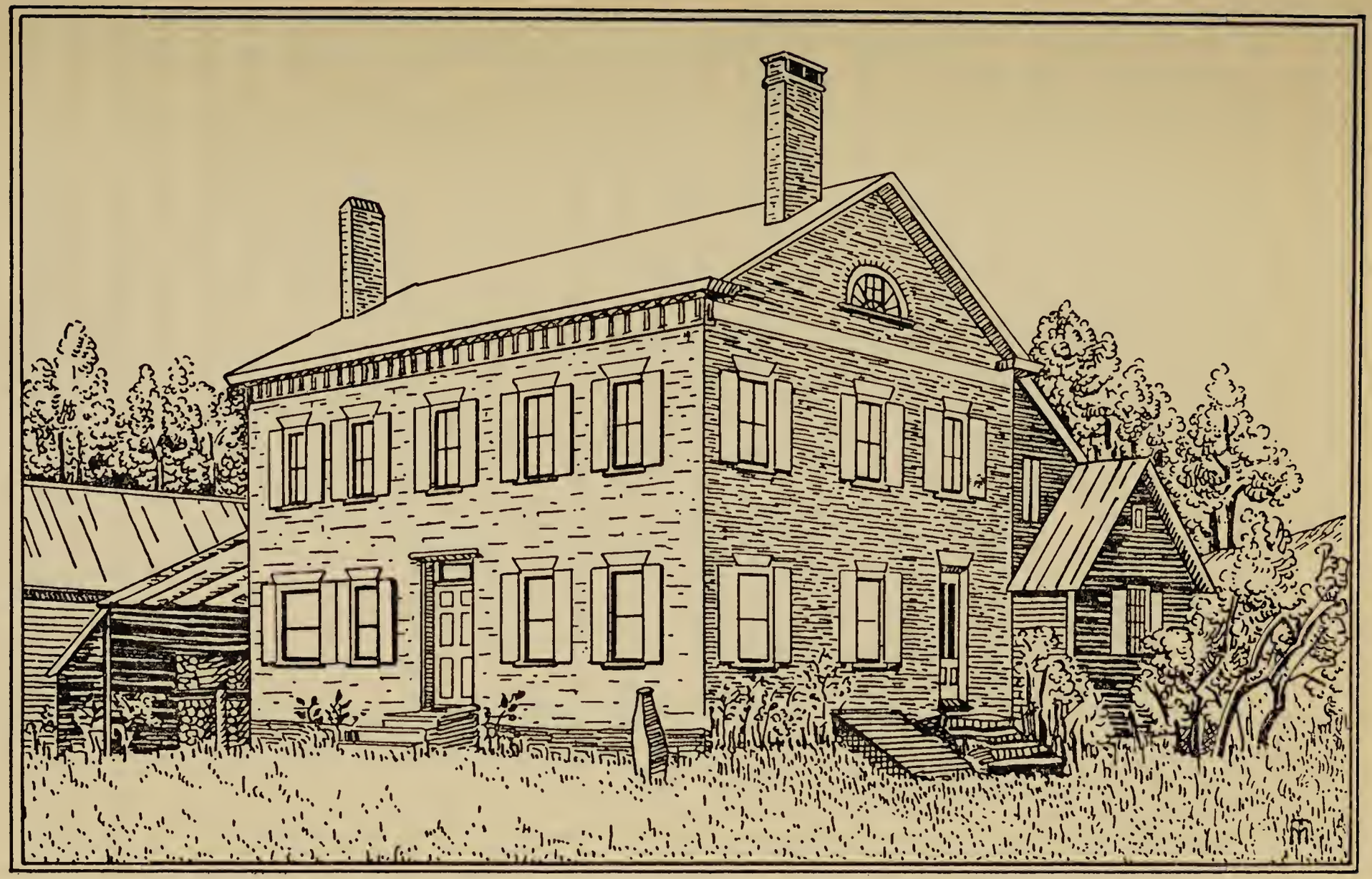
Hadley Standish, another Mayflower descendant, came here from Pembroke, Mass., in 1793. In 1796 he bought of Joseph Darling Jr. one half of a lot in the Apthorp tract and later bought more land of Andrew Smith. His son John was born at Pembroke in 1785. As a lad he hired out to work for Samuel Slayton at $50.00 a year and then he improved his condition by hiring to Jonathan Farnsworth for $100 a year. He was in the second war with England. While a bachelor, he hired housekeepers. Just why their names should have been preserved when many vital things have not been, adds to the thrill of research. These women who baked and brewed for him were, Mrs. Wallace, Irene Royce, Nancy Brewer and Caroline Myrick. He married Caroline in 1820. Maybe she was the best cook he had had. She was a daughter of the Revolution of the first generation. Six children were born to them. The beautiful house on the old Standish farm, he built in 1842 which shows that he had excellent taste and was a fine builder. He died in November, 1874. His wife had died in 1859. He spent his last years with his daughter Mary Ann, wife of Sanford Wilder. His son, Van Ness Standish went to Galesburg, Ill., to teach in Lombard College of which he became president. At his death he made many valuable gifts to the city of Galesburg. With

his dictionary under his arm, he attended for several years the Western Association of Universalist Ministers which met in Chicago and it was his business to correct their errors of speech. My ministerial husband attended some of these sessions and recalls Prof. Standish and his dictionary. The following item about Prof. Standish came from records in Galesburg. "He was born at Woodstock, Vermont, Feb. 26, 1825. He graduated at Norwich U., 1847; A. M., 1855; (honorary Ph. D., Knox College, 1879; LL. D., St. Lawrence University, 1893. Married at Galesburg, Illinois, to Harriet Augusta Kendall, of Phillipston, Mass., March 24, 1859. Taught in public schools of Vermont and New Hampshire and grade schools of central New York for several years. Conducted Teachers' Institutes and lectured in many counties of Illinois. Professor at Lombard University 41 years, six of which he was President and Acting President. Member of the committee for Promotion Univ. of U. S.; president Galesburg Park Commission, Galesburg Improvement Society, Mayflower Pilgrim Society, Auxiliary Society of State Board of Charities for Knox County, Ill.; member American Civic Association. Traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, Holy Land, and No. America. With his wife, made a bequest to Knox College of $100,000 in 1908. Was City Forester of Galesburg. Died in 1919." His brother Frank died in Woodstock.

The Jabez Hammond Family is one of the most interesting and colorful which settled in the Vermont hills. Jabez and his sparkling wife Priscilla came from New Bedford, Mass., in 1780 and bought a farm of Sylvanus Cottle in the Apthorp tract No. 5 north range. This means that it was a short distance south of the present Fletcher school.

Jabez' direct English ancestor was William who married an Aunt of Wm. Penn. Her name was Elizabeth Penn. Priscilla was a Delano, De La Nois. She belonged to the Huguenots and this French strain explains her vivacity and unusual mental activity. Jabez learned the shoemaker's trade in New Bedford and it is well that he did, for five girls and three boys needed many shoes. The old account books of the Ransom store tell often about the girls buying shoe binding and thread. The girls and their Mother did most of the purchasing. Once the item on the books reads, "by Jabez himself." He did not often break loose from that group of women in his household but he was no weakling. He too was intellectual. Dana's history has only two mentions of him. One of these reports his drinks at the store and the other one tells of the school he taught in the South Parish in 1796.

Their son Jabez Delano who was born in New Bedford, 1779, was a lover of books. He taught school at sixteen years of age and then studied medicine with Dr. Stephen Drew and settled in Cherry Valley, New York, but he did not like the practice of medicine and so studied law. He then settled in Albany. He was elected to Congress from this district. He travelled in Europe and on the death of Martin Van Buren, he was appointed to succeed him as one of the Regents of New York City University. He was the author of several books, one of them was, A Political History of New York. The Baker Library at Dartmouth College owns three of his books. He made a visit to South Woodstock in 1800. His second wife was Laura, a daughter of Roger Williams of this town. He died in Cherry Valley in 1855. George Hammond was born in South



The Kingsley Home—built by John Arnold Cottle

Woodstock in 1783, became a noted teacher in these parts. He taught in Woodstock, Pomfret and Barnard. He married Lucy Paine of Pomfret in 1806. He bought the Fort Defiance farm in Barnard. His son George succeeded him on this farm, also his grandson George. George the second came along in time for the Lyceums and of course he helped to organize one in Barnard for the intellectual strain in this family did not die out but was passed on to succeeding generations. Wherever a Hammond lived, there were schools, books and activity of the mental kind. This son George died in October 1849. Henry Hammond studied law and settled in Indiana.

Daughter Rhoda married Nathaniel Dean of Pomfret, Dec. 31, 1801. This Dean family were also intellectuals. Their son Amos graduated at Union College in 1820, studied law with his Uncle Jabez Delano Hammond. When he was admitted to the Bar, he became Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in an Albany school and finally the Principal of it. In 1851 he went to Iowa and became Chancellor of Iowa University, he also taught history in the College. He returned to Albany in 1858. He was the author of several books. Amos spent his last years in Cherry Valley and his father and mother died in his home there.

Daughter Priscilla married John Stark Bicknell of Barnard and they also lived on the Fort Defiance farm. The Deans lived in that neighborhood. The Bicknells had a son Jabez who became a Physician. This Priscilla died in 1819 in Barnard. Abigail another daughter who was called Nabby died unmarried in South Woodstock and is buried beside her father and mother in the Morgan graveyard which is so sadly neglected. One son also died.

Daughter Rebecca was the queen bee, though they were all brilliant. They all taught school and Rhoda as well as Rebecca wrote poetry. Gilman's Bibliography of Vermont contains a rather lengthy sketch of Rebecca. In 1820 David Watson, Woodstock's famous Printer, published a volume of poems for her. She dedicated the book to her brother, the Hon. Jabez Delano Hammond. Her name does not appear but the title page says they are by A Lady. Rebecca married Samuel Laird in 1800 and they went to Warren, Vt., to live where her children were born, Julia, Samuel, Horatio, Nelson, Charles. In 1820 they moved to Indiana, one of her sons preceded the family there. The Barnard history reports that they settled in North Madison, Ind., but there is no town by that name in the state, and it was probably North Marion which is in the Southern part of the state. Rebecca published a poem of twelve pages called, "The Banks of the Ohio." So she must have lived near enough to it to have felt something of the majesty of a great river. This poem was printed in Windsor, Vermont, in 1823. She continued her teaching in Indiana and taught not only common subjects but taught the Classics. She and her husband died in the Middle West. For some strange reason in a biographical sketch of her, the husband's good old Scotch name of Laird is spelt plain Lard. Harold Rugg of Dartmouth Library owns one of the books containing her poems. It is bound in boards.

Jabez and Priscilla had another daughter, probably named Eunice, but no record of any sort has been found concerning her. A niece, Mrs. Almira Sterling lived here

in Woodstock. Jabez died May 1807, his wife Priscilla in 1816 and daughter Nabby in 1824, aged 49.

The Sanderson family is quite completely reported in Dana's history but this enchanting description of Benjamin, a son of James who settled on Dunham hill in 1780 is something not to be neglected. It was written by Chauncey Richardson for the *Standard* of Jan. 31, 1869. He had been an eye witness of this episode. No such picturesque individuals live on our hills in these sophisticated days. There are none so salty. Benjamin was standing on one of the balconies of that interesting tavern which stood where the present fruit store stands when this related incident occurred.

"Benjamin Sanderson who died not long ago was an uncommon man. He was a person of powerful physical frame, strong mind, retentive memory and ardent temperament. He was a hard working farmer with no advantages for education and lived and died on the hill farm where Mr. John W. Cary now lives, two and one half miles from the Green and one half mile up the hill road from the road going to the South Village.

What he believed he believed for himself and not for another. He did not ask anyone what he was to believe, he read, he reflected and judged for himself, without regard to popularity or filthy lucre, he opposed every thing that he thought wrong either in private affairs or in matters he thought affected the nation at large. Politics and religion were his favorite topics of meditation and discussion. He was a firm patriot and a strong Universalist. He was a temperate man though the customs of the times sanctioned a moderate use of spirituous liquors and he was

Home of Dr. Drew: Pioneer Physician

no exception to the rule but he just drank what he wanted and no more. He was never known to be intoxicated or excited above and beyond a moderate state of exhilaration, such as was allowed and was common through the country. After he got old and somewhat slow in his gait and a little clumsy, it took considerable lubricating fluid to render him supple and agile. He was like Apollos, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures. When he was exhilarated just enough to bring the powers of his mind into full activities, he would hold forth upon Bible doctrines with a fluency and power that would put many a Modern theologian to the blush.

We well recollect that on one freeman's meeting day in September when the election was over, in the gallery of the tavern now kept by Mr. Henry and conversing with great animation as was his habit, with Prof. Willard Parker, the Prof. of Anatomy and Surgery in the Vermont Medical College. A crowd had gathered around and the sidewalks and stores opposite were filled with people listening to his powerful harangue or exhortation. Prof. Parker appeared to be very much delighted and entertained. Mr. Sanderson, it being a public day and finding numerous friends, he had not seen for a long time, had probably several times during the day been in the neighborhood of liquids that were uncommonly smooth and oily and his mental powers and his gift of utterance seemed to be at the top of their condition and in the best kind of working order. And there in the hearing of the crowd with great eloquence and power he lectured to the delighted Prof. on anatomy and surgery of God's operations past, present, and to come, beginning with Abraham and coming down

to the Prophets, the Savior and the Apostles, waxing warmer and stronger till he finally pilotted the whole crowd and the rest of mankind, all safely over Jordan's rolling Flood and deposited them all in excellent quarters in Canaan's happy shore where there is no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor any pain where at the times of the restitution of all things of which God hath spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets since the world began, God shall be all in all." Three good cheers for our friend Benjamin.

Nehemiah Mack came from Lyme, Conn., in 1782. On a farm in the "Gov't tract," he built himself a good house. His six children settled also in South Woodstock. His son Benjamin came from Haddam, Conn., and settled on that hill road north of the so-called meeting house hill. Other children of Nehemiah were David, Hezekiah, John Silas and Betty. All of these children married and replenished the earth and repeated the first names in each family and some of them married their cousins. The repetitions and inter-relations make the family tree look like what we used to call a crazy quilt. Mr. Wm. Mack of West Woodstock carries the name onto another generation.

Joseph and Sylvanus Cottle of Martha's Vineyard were the first of this family to come to our town. They were in the South Parish in 1779. Jabez, Warren and John Arnold followed the first ones. They were energetic, enterprising men. While owning farms, they built mills and started stores. They took an active part in all the early town meetings and held all sorts of offices. Sylvanus and Joseph settled in the Fletcher region and the Cottles so multiplied there, that it was called Cottletown. Jabez and Warren set-

tled where the village grew up. I would like to know something of the women, but alas, they were much submerged. Though Nabby Cottle and Nabby Hammond, living on adjoining farms, were friends and their names appear together on the Ransom Store day books and one gets the impression that they were lively lasses.

Wm. McClay was born in the parish of Kippen, County of Sterling, Scotland in 1743. When twenty-seven years old he came to America and settled in Charlestown, N. H., where he came to know the Farnsworths. For his second wife he married their sister Polly and with them settled in the South Parish. His farm was located at the foot of Fletcher hill. He died in 1829, at the age of eighty-six. He had at least three daughters, Eunice, Polly and Betsey, and he gave a farm to each one. Once upon a time two of these girls mounted their horses and he gave each one $25.00 and told them to buy at the store what they wanted. There were sons, William and Stephen, and grandsons, Stephen and Gustavus.

Samuel Slayton was born at Brookfield, Mass., September 24, 1751. In the year 1780, he settled in South Woodstock on a hill which became known as Slayton hill. He received his first deed from Ebenezer Curtis, September 13, 1781. This land was in the confiscated Apthorp tract. Samuel married Hannah Stowe of Walpole, N. H., in July 1781. He died August 10, 1830, and she died April 2, 1813. For many years he made regular trips to Boston with a team, taking down his cheese, butter, poultry and other products of his farm and bringing back salt, groceries and things needed by his family. The records tell us that he was peaceable, industrious and independent. Ten chil-

dren were born to him and his wife. It was a musical family. They played the fife, clarinet, drum and violin, and they were leaders in all the social activities of the region. Joshua Slayton settled near Samuel in 1782 but died four years later. His wife Desire carried on the farm for a long period. David Slayton came in 1773 and settled in the same region. These Slaytons have been the progenitors of long lines of descendants and the name still exists in the town.

Daniel Ralph came from Woodstock, Conn., in 1775 and settled on Slayton hill. He carried his grain to Charlestown, N. H., to be ground. In the summer time he toted the bag on his back. In the winter he drew it on a small sled. He once shot a moose on Mt. Tom. That sounds decidedly apocryphal but all sorts of things could happen that long ago. He raised great quantities of wheat on that hill and during a scarcity of it in 1817, people came to him for wheat as far as one hundred miles away. His son Amos succeeded him on his farm. The farm is still owned by descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jaquith. This thrifty farmer Daniel and his notable wife Priscilla who feared neither man nor beast, were friends to all who needed assistance.

Feb. 20, 1793, Chauncey Richardson was born in Woodstock, the grandson of Capt. Israd Richardson. His father settled in the Kedron Valley when Chauncey was seven years old. He married Rebecca Carey of Hartland. He died December 22, 1888. He was then Woodstock's oldest citizen. He always took a deep interest in all educational affairs and identified himself with every undertaking of that neighborhood. He wrote for the local papers many articles of historical value concerning the early days of

the town. In his early days he made spinning wheels but later he devoted himself to his farm.

Dr. Samuel M. Murdock came from Scotland following the Pilgrim Fathers closely and settled in Plymouth County, Mass. A grandson James, who was the father of twenty-three children came to Woodstock in 1790 and settled in the third range of lots of Number one, Apthorp tract. His son Lemuel succeeded him here. The old cellar hole remains and lovely pink roses grow in abundance about it. Later Lemuel moved off that hill and settled on the hill road south of the Phinehas Thomas farm. Russell Murdock a descendant had a jewelry store at the Green but this name like so many more has disappeared. I own a blanket chest which belonged to Lemuel. The Murdock who was in the Revolution carved on a powder horn wild beasts, birds of the air and fish of the sea, during his moments of leisure. He gave this horn to Elisha Gallup, none of the present family know anything about it.

Deacon Eleazer Parker came from Mansfield, Conn., in 1780 and settled near the Hartland line in the Pisgah hill section. George Rood later lived on the site of the first Parker home. The first cabin was built of logs with a bark roof. Later he built the present Monroe Perkins house. His son Captain Isaac Parker, when he left the farm bought the little brick house opposite the old mill as one approaches the South Village, and in this house Captain Isaac and his wife Lucia Wood Parker celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Their son Isaac Augustus went to Galesburg, Ill., and taught for years in Lombard College. He became one of the best known educators in Illinois. He was a graduate of Dartmouth from which he

received his Master's degree in 1855. He taught at Glover, Vt., before going to Galesburg where he taught Latin and Greek for fifty years. While teaching these so-called dead languages, he always kept before his students, all the living issues for advancement and progress. It is interesting that two South Woodstock men went to Galesburg, Ill., to teach in Lombard College and spent their entire lives there and always were identified with civic and cultural affairs in their adopted state. The Galesburg, Ill., Register dated June 22, 1889, "reports the death of Mrs. Parker. She was the daughter of William and Parthena Larabee of Weathersfield, Vt. The Captain had decided opinions on religion, Morals and politics and expressed himself freely. In 1807 Charles McKenzie of Hartland married Miss Elizabeth Parker, daughter of Deacon Eleazer Parker of South Woodstock."

William Benjamin and two sons were in the Revolution, enlisting at Ashburnham, Mass. They settled in Woodstock directly after the War. Jonathan, William's son, bought his farm in 1784. Both farms were in the Apthorp tract. These Benjamins were of the fourth and fifth generations. The eighth generation flourished in the South Village and they were all singers. When they and the Farnsworths, the Briggs, the Lakes gathered in the balcony of the Chapel to sing, everybody was thrilled. The father, William Benjamin, married Annis Holt. These Benjamins intermarried with the Standish family, the Ellis, the Lakes, the Farnsworths, the Perkins and through them most of the South Woodstock folks became related.

Arunah Fullerton after his service in the Revolution came from his home in Middleboro, Mass., and settled in

the Apthorp tract. A grandson of Arunah whose name was Amasa branched out and went to Cincinnati where he built boats, loaded them with pork and various products and then took the boat down to New Orleans where he sold both the boat and the load, and by some method got back to Cincinnati, built another boat, got another load and repeated the process. He then went to Sycamore, Ill., and built the first Universalist church there. This was before 1862. After this wandering, he came back to Vermont and finished his life as a farmer, working with his brother Isaiah. The Fullerton name still lives in our midst.

Abraham Kendall came from Dunstable, Mass., in 1779, cleared a piece of land and then went back for his family. He lived on this farm sixty years. They had seven children. Jason continued on the home farm, served in the State Legislature and carried on many enterprises. Caleb became a jeweler, Benjamin Franklin a printer, and was an Editor for a time in Woodstock. Charles was a printer. He entered Alden Spooner's Printing Shop in 1800 and his first job was to set up John Adams' address to Congress. In 1804 he became a journeyman printer, working for a time in Randolph, Vt., and later in both Montreal and Kingston, Canada. In those early years he had to ink the forms with raw sheep skin balls and do the printing on a hand press. It was possible to print about fifty sheets in an hour. After returning from Canada, he worked on the *Washingtonian* at Windsor and then at Walpole, N. H., where he set the type of a bible, read all the proofs and made up the forms. This is supposed to be the last publication by Isaiah Thomas, a distinguished early printer. Kendall was in New Haven and New York. In 1815 he was

foreman on the *Enquirer* at Richmond, Va., where he stayed eight years. Becoming ill he went to Saratoga to drink the water there and stayed to print until 1864. It is said that he looked like General Jackson.

The father Abraham was badly wounded at the battle of White Plains. He cruised on a Privateer trying to recover his health. When he brought his wife to Woodstock most of the road was marked only by blazed trees. They were warmly welcomed by the few settlers.

Israel Taylor Houghton settled on Biscuit hill before 1793, but he was a mover. He finally found himself on Dunham hill. He had at least two sons, Plutarch and Cyrenus. "Married on the evening of the 3rd of December, 1795, Mr. Plutarch Houghton to Miss Jedida Fletcher." Cyrenus married a Dunham girl and stayed on that hill. Plutarch after owning much property sold out and answered the call to the far West.

Asahel Hoisington, a brother of Joab the first settler in the present Woodstock Green, settled in the South Parish before the first town meeting in 1772, for he was elected one of the highway commissioners at that meeting. His land covers the site of the farm where the Bagleys live in the Fletcher district. He bought this land of his brother Joab in 1771 but some difficulty arose about the deed. The land lay in the upper range of lot 6 of the Apthorp tract. He finally secured a quit claim deed from Oliver Willard, in 1773. He lived there until February 5, 1803, when he sold out to Salmon Hoisington and moved to Ellisburg, N. Y. These Hoisingtons came from Connecticut. Asahel's wife was Hannah Lampshere. Their daughter Elizabeth was born January 5, 1773 and son Grant, June 5, 1780.

Asahel's father was John Hoisington 3rd. His mother was Sarah Templar Hoisington. For this information I am indebted to Mrs. Marie Hoisington Fayant of Fort Plain, N. Y. She is a lineal descendant of Joab of the Green. A gravestone in the Morgan yard has the following:—Sacred to the memory of Abigail, consort of Salmon Hoisington who died A. D. 1803 aged 49 years. This Salmon built the brick house still standing on that farm.

James Fletcher came from Mass. to Woodstock about 1780 and settled in the neighborhood which still bears that family name. There were nine children. They settled on various farms in the South Parish. Miss Alice Fletcher is the only one left who bears the name. When we came to Woodstock in 1912, several Fletcher families were alive.

Nathaniel Randall, the first, came from Job's Landing, Pembroke, Mass. He was a shipbuilder. He settled near the Reading line in 1788. Farming and building were his work. He later moved to Bristol, N. Y., where he has some descendants still living. His son, Nathaniel, and some of his other children stayed here. A large brick house was built on the East hill road between the villages and this became the Randall home. There was a third Nathaniel Randall in our midst, who was the father of George who was killed in the battle of the Wilderness in the Civil War, and for whom the G. A. R. Post in Woodstock was named. He had a daughter, Eloise, who studied with James Murdock, the actor, in Philadelphia, and she gave readings in many places. She was in Woodstock in 1879 for a recital. Mr. Hiram King and Mrs. Lucy McKenzie both sang on this occasion. The old original Nathaniel, when nearly 90, made three or four little boats and set them on

poles in his yard so the wind could move them about and he in imagination could get a whiff of the sea once more.

Silas Perry settled near Benjamin Mack in 1793 and his nine children lived all around South Woodstock. Only one descendant bearing that name is left in the town, Hollis S. Perry of West Woodstock.

Dunham hill gets its name from Simeon Dunham, who came here from Middleboro, Mass., with his wife Lydia Shaw in 1788. He received the deed to this land on July 24, 1789, but never had it recorded till July 14, 1791. His son Simeon and grandson Simeon succeeded him on this farm. The late Mrs. Eva Chandler was born here. No one bearing the name Dunham lives in our midst, though there are descendants with other names.

The Perkins family on coming to America settled in Ipswich, Mass. William, a descendant, married Lydia Sterling in Lyme, Conn., February 20, 1766. Their six children were all born in Lyme. Captain William moved to Hartland in 1793, and in 1801 to South Woodstock with three sons, Elisha, Gaius and Benjamin, and his second wife who was Irene Ransom, the widow of Stephen Smith. Captain Perkins was a tanner and shoe maker. His sons continued the business which is described in another chapter. The red brick house north of the Academy was built by Gaius Perkins. It is owned by his great granddaughter, Miss Alice Fletcher.

One of the movable planets in the shape of a man was Levi Washburn, born in Brookfield, Mass., in 1777. He died in Woodstock at the age of 97. His father brought him, as an infant, to Vermont. He lived all around the map, but stayed long enough in South Woodstock to help

build the Methodist Church in 1807, then he was off again. In 1816 he bought the Cottle sawmill and built himself a house on the site of the present Shove house. He loved to travel about with horse and buggy and did so almost to his last days.

Deacon Phinehas Thomas, better known as Captain Thomas, came to Woodstock in 1780, from Middleboro, Mass. He owned mills, he built mills, he held many public offices in the town, he went to the Legislature. While still in the milling business he bought a farm not far from the Pelton school house. A daughter, Deborah, married Binney Thomas and they had a son Elliot who had a son Gilman E. Thomas who still lives in the South Village. That neighborhood where he settled had many Thomases in it and the Randall graveyard is the resting place of large numbers of them.

It is most amazing how all knowledge of families passes away. Here were the Crookers on Long hill beyond the Townsend Corners. They quite flourished for years. But the chief information to be found about them now is on their tomb stones. Noah Crooker came from Pembroke, Mass., in April 1795. The next year he signed up with Jabez Hammond to send two children to Hammond's private school, and Jonathan Crooker also signed for two. Jonathan Crooker in 1807 was one of the men who bought the land for the Methodist Church. One Crooker taught school. There was a Noah Jr. and one named Barker. I quote a notice concerning a later man. I was especially interested in it because the Rev. Asa Saxe was a well known Universalist Minister and was the brother of the poet, John G. Saxe whom all the people of an earlier gen-

eration knew and quoted from the poem, "Six Wise Men of Indostan."

"On October 17, 1877, the Rev. Asa Saxe in the city of New York, married Alice Paul to S. S. Crooker of South Woodstock, Vermont." Noah probably built his house in 1805 and he had many pieces of beautiful furniture made for it.

The Wood family of the Long hill section was fathered by Nathaniel who came from old Middleboro, Mass., in 1779 and bought over four hundred acres in the Apthorp tract. This land lay chiefly in No. 7. He came back the next year to live. His father William came also. His son Noah married Ruth Tilden, a daughter of Caleb and Joanna Tilden who had settled in the same neighborhood. Ruth corresponded with friends and relatives back in Massachusetts. Some of these letters she pasted into a home-made scrap book. The outside being adorned with a weeping willow and a mourning woman. This was a memorial to the passing of her father and mother. Sarah Fuller, a sister, writes some of the letters. Priscilla B. Ford of Pembroke, Mass., writes on October 5, 1805. Ezra Fuller, a nephew, sends her a letter written on the Brig Traveler of Boston. It is dated November 25th, 1815. He tells her that he is bound for Cadiz in Spain and back to Boston which will be in April, he thinks. He also tells his Aunt that she can sell his horse for whatever she thinks it is worth. Some of the letters deal entirely with their worries over what they call religion, salvation and all the horrors in which they had been brought up. They were too introspective. This Noah and Ruth had a son Otis and he had a son Noah and that Noah was the father of Alonso and grandfather of his

children. There were other children along the line but they are scattered over the land as is the way with families.

Mrs. Amelia Pope Sutherland of Tremont, Wis., a descendant of the Popes and Hammonds who settled on the hill near the Reading line wrote to Mr. A. E. Wood in September, 1937, asking him to have a marker placed in the graveyard on their old farm. She has the names of the eight children buried there with the dates of their deaths, all of which will be cut on the stone. The spot is almost inaccessible, but her wish will be fulfilled.

The following article on District 18 was written about 1900. Noah Wood was the author of the sketch and all his life he had known the whole region. Since that time many more changes have occurred.

"School District No. 18 in Woodstock is situated mostly on the easterly slope of Long Hill, north of the dividing ridge between Woodstock and Reading, and West of the road leading from South Woodstock to Felchville, and contains about two thousand acres. The first land purchase by an actual settler was made by Captain Nathaniel Wood. His deeds for two hundred and fifty and one hundred acres of land bear the dates of September 20, 1779, and March 31, 1780. From this time it was settled very fast, and soon contained some thirty or more families, about many of which very little is known to the writer of this, except their names and the places upon which their houses were built. At the present time there are twenty-five vacant house lots in the district, and two vacant houses, only one of which will probably again be occupied by a family, and seven now occupied. In 1781 Feb. 20, John Darling bought fifty acres of land and settled in what was then called the

center of the district. He came from Middleborough, Mass., with his wife, Mary Wood, and one child. He was a steady industrious, careful and calculating man, never thinking the battle was to the strong, or the race to the swift, but like the tortoise in the fable, ever kept the even tenor of his way.

In 1786 Warren Cottle deeded to Dan Niles one hundred acres of land, which is now owned by William Cady and Sanford Wilder and wife, and soon moved on with his father, mother and wife. Mr. Niles was a tanner and shoemaker by trade, and had a tannery north of Wm. C. Cady's near the spring in the road. I have seen the remains of the old vats and spent bark. Some of the vats were made of plank, some being dug out of butternut logs. Mr. Niles must have been a hard working man, as he cleared a large part of his land and built two smallish frame houses close together, one for himself and one for his father and mother, who lived, as I then thought, to be very old people. Mr. Niles never had any children. By over-work and exposure he contracted rheumatism, which settled in his hip and he went with crutches—how long I do not know. In his testament I saw this record, 'If I remember right, when I was fifty-five years old I could walk with but one crutch.' He was very zealous in matters of religion, and attempted to organize a church, with Mr. Cowdrey as pastor. Hence he was called Deacon Niles. After he was too infirm to manage his place, it was conveyed to Hiram Benson.

[Other Family Portraits may be found under the creation of Woodstock on pages 29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38.]

William Barnes settled on the place now owned by Levi Blossom and son, about 1782, and lived there many years. Their children, that I knew were Joseph, Gideon, Zerah, Honas, Lucinda, Assenath and Amos. Mr. Barnes died in middle age. Mrs. Barnes lived to be eighty or ninety, and retained her faculties well.

Nathan and Eunice Cook bought each fifty acres of land, now owned by Sanford Wilder, in 1782. Joel was their only child whom I ever knew, and whatever became of him and his father I have forgotten. Mrs. Cook had all her effects, except what she had on, burned in the Stephen Farnsworth house. After that I think she never kept house. She lived to be quite old.

Joseph Powers bought of Oliver Davis fifty acres in 1798, the Woodstock part of the Charles Washburn farm, and lived there many years, and I think both died there, and a son named Aaron. Their children were Joseph, Benjamin, Susan, Arsenith and Abigail.

Zebedee Hackett bought fifty-five acres of Manasseh Wood in 1791, now called the Gates place. He married Manasseh Wood's sister, and by her had seven children, Darius, Sally, Bethany, Polly, Philo, Manasseh and Huldah. His second wife was the widow of Aurunah Fullerton, by whom he had one child Betsey. When he and his wife got to be old and infirm they conveyed their substance to Lemuel Benjamin for their support, and died at his home.

Joseph Darling deeded to Hadley Standish, in Nov., 1796, fifty acres of land, now owned by N. E. Wood. His wife was a Glover. Their children were Thomas and Sally (twins), John W. (father of B. F. and Professor J. V. N. of Galesburg, Ill.) and Mrs. Sanford Wilder, Sabrina,

Parmeli, Orrin (died young,) Samuel, Stephen, Abigail, Rosamund and Ira. A part of his children were born in Pembroke, Mass. Mr. Standish's large family required a larger farm, so he sold to Abiah Rice and went to New York not far from the year 1810, except John W., who settled on the place now owned by Sanford Wilder.

Mitchell Pope and Ruth Hammond were married at the mature ages of nineteen and seventeen, and came and took a deed of Faunce Hammond, Jan. 1, 1789, of fifty acres, now owned by Chas. M. White. Subsequently he bought about fifty acres more. Their children were: Elnathan, Nathaniel, Polly, Sally, Jabez, Reuben, Mitchell, Ruth, Cynthia, Luther, Thomas, Lutina and Andrew. Mr. and Mrs. Pope were good livers, and their latch string was always out, and their table replenished to every hungry caller. Sally, Polly, Mitchell, Cynthia, Andrew, Mr. Pope, Luther and Ruth died at the old homestead, or at a neighbor's house in sight, and were buried on the old farm, their graves being unmarked and known only by a few of us who are left. Elnathan, Nathaniel and Jabez settled in Wisconsin. Some twenty or more years after, Thomas sold the old homestead, and with his family, mother (over 80) and Lutina, followed to Wisconsin. Reuben, I think, died in Greensborough, Vt. Soon after, Elnathan came and took Reuben's widow and son to Wisconsin. Mr. Pope, in the discipline of his family, held the reins rather lax, yet grasped with a firm hand, and his children always knew how far and fast it would do to go. He held a certificate of membership with the Friends or Quakers, which he procurred in this wise: In Reading they had an established church and taxed the people for the support of the

minister. This tax, if paid by a certain time, could be paid in wheat. Availing himself of this privilege, as money was hard to get, and the time about to expire, he took five pecks of wheat on his shoulder and started across the hills for Reading Center. It stormed gently, but soon increased to a rapid fall of snow which, he said, when he got to the Reverend's house, at about 2 p. m., was nearly knee deep. When he entered, the family were about to sit down to what appeared to him an excellent boiled dish for dinner. The Reverend gentleman sat down to the table, craved a blessing from the Author of all good, but did not ask Mr. Pope to partake with them. Mr. Pope's shoes (his leggins not being prepared) were full of snow, and sat down by the fire and dried them and his stockings best he could. After dinner the Reverend arose from the table, measured the wheat and receipted the tax. This so irritated Mr. Pope, that he declared he would never pay another minister's tax, if he had to move his house on to C. Tilden's land in Woodstock. Finding the Friends were exempt from the tax, he and many others availed themselves of the fact and joined them, and his house staid in Reading. None of his descendants are known to live in Vermont. Mr. Pope was a cripple, and lost his mind some years before he died.

Joseph Barnes, son of William Barnes, received a deed of about fifty acres from Oliver Davis. Their children were: Ira, Mary, Delia, Mason, Laura, Louisa, Philander and William. Mr. Barnes was, during the war of 1812-15, a Federalist, and had displayed over his front door the heading of his paper in large fanciful letters, *The Washingtonian;* also on the wall of his living room, opposite to

its entrance. I think he must have been conscientious in his belief, judging from the zealousness and vehemence with which he discussed the political questions of the day. He lived but a short time after the close of the war, dying with typhus fever. His children all lived to man and womanhood, except William. None of them settled in Woodstock.

Mr. Davis early settled on the farm next south of Reading line, on the main road. His children, whom I knew, were Oliver, Leonard, Samuel, Mrs. Joseph Barnes, and Mrs. Noah Cady. Mr. Davis must have been a man advanced in years when he came here as all of his children were married and had families of their own at my earliest recollection. Oliver was married three or four times, I think four, his last wife being a Mrs. Holt of Sherburne, at which place he died. Leonard married Sarepta Cady, lived on the homestead some twenty or more years, then kept a public house in the village of Woodstock a few years. He died somewhat past the middle age, where I do not recollect. His widow married a Mr. Holden and lived to be 97 or 98 years old. Samuel also married a Cady girl, Sarah, and lived awhile north, I think Canada, then came back, lived on the William Barnes place, thence to Peterboro, N. H., thence back to West Windsor, at which place he died. His widow lived a few years after his death at the homestead, then in Reading with her son-in-law, Dexter Buck, at which place she died.

Charles White had a deed of land from the original right of William Temple, about 1790, which was deeded by Gaius Randall to Benjamin Darling, Nov. 17, 1806. Mr. Darling married Huldah Morton, by whom he had

three children, Betsey Maria, Huldah Morton and Ezra. In the winter of 1820-21 Mr. Darling and family emigrated to Pennsylvania, near the New York line. Of Mr. White but little is known, except that he was a working man, and worked much for Nathaniel Wood, Jr., and that he was much addicted to fun and romance. His family consisted of a wife and seven children. The place is now owned by H. H. H. Rood and Noah Edward Wood.

Caleb Tilden was born in Massachusetts, Nov. 13, 1745, his wife, Joanna Barker, (a sister of Hon. Josiah Barker, a member of the General Court of Massachusetts, Sept. 2, 1745) were married Oct. 1, 1770. Their children were Sarah (married and stayed in Massachusetts, Joanna, Caleb, Ruth and Josiah, who died when young. Mr. Tilden was an anchor maker and shipsmith by trade, but when married he bought a place in Pembroke and run a grist mill—two run of stones, no bolt. After Caleb was eleven years old, he usually tended the mill, his sisters helping to handle the bags, his father working in the place where he learned his trade, coming home Saturday to dress the mill stones. In November, 1793, Mr. Tilden bought 110 acres, on which N. E. Wood now lives, and worked one year on it, sowing seeds for apples, plums, raising some grain, potatoes, etc., building a log house and shop for use when he took his family on. During that time, Caleb, now 16, carried on his small place of twelve acres, running the mill in connection. During the winter of 1795 he returned home, sold out, and with Ezra Wood came with a spike team, (two oxen and a horse,) first taking a load of wheat and other stuff to Boston market, and then bringing his family and effects to Vermont. Mr. Tilden, as his trade

would indicate, was an excellent forger, and could fashion almost anything of iron, but was not a very practical shoer. He and Caleb soon became experts at making nails. By working in the shops when the weather was unpropitious and considerably at night, they soon had about one-third of their farm cleared, and a fine orchard of apples and plums planted, which bore abundantly for many years. Now there is but one solitary tree standing of the old orchard. Mr. Tilden, after Caleb lost his reason, cleared but little, cutting a small piece in winter, using the best timber for his fires. I had hoped to have given the prices of making nails by the thousand, shoeing and other smith work at that day, from his old book, which by the way, was kept in pounds, shillings and pence. By some fortuity, it has disappeared.

He was not ambitious, never wishing to engage in any business, public or private, except his own. He never, except compelled by dire necessity, bought a thing unless he paid in commodity or ready cash. He was a man of few words, never joining any religious denomination, but very exemplary in his conversation, in all his dealings with men and in his family, and it was remarked by one of the older inhabitants of the district, "that he was one of the noblest works of God, an honest man." On the 16th day of May, 1813, he worked alone mending fence. About sundown a passer saw him holding to the limb of an apple tree a few rods from his house, then fall. Jumping from his horse he gave the alarm, and ere he and Mrs. Tilden could get there with a pillow, he was dead. Mrs. Tilden, who was an excellent helpmeet, a willing sharer in all his trials and privations, of his joys and sorrows, survived him only a

little over four years, dying at Noah Wood's, June 25, 1817.

A man named Fowle settled on land now owned by Frank Wilder, a Mr. Reddington on land of George Spear, a Mr. Tubbs, Webster, Bassett and Thomas in that part of the district. As they left no representatives in district, I know but little about them except the places of their abode. Abiah Rice bought the land of Mr. Standish and moved on in about 1810. He was a very energetic and successful farmer, stock raising being his principal forte. His land extended from I. R. Fullerton's to Esq. Shedd's in Reading, almost two miles. In his dealings with men he claimed to be upright, punctual and exacting, the last of which he lived to perfection. Never would dispose of property unless paid in labor, commodity or hard cash—no shinplasters for him. In his family he was despotic, ruling with a rod of iron and enforcing with a birch withe, depriving all of his children at times the privilege of his house. He was a revolutionary soldier and drew an ensign's pension. His wife was a Sterling, an excellent housekeeper and farm woman, who outlived him and received the pension till well into the nineties. Their children were Anna B., Irene, Sarah and Calista, who now lives at the age of almost eighty-two years. Retiring, somewhat, from business he conveyed a part of his possessions to Josiah Page, conditioned for the support of him and wife. All went well for a while, then his elbow got crooked and he attempted to get it back, but Page, by the assistance of his father, was so far on the lead that it was thought they saved enough to buy a nice river farm. He next made a similar trade with Henry Hoadley. All went smoothly for a while. Again the waters were disturbed, but Mr. Hoadley, by the

assistance of his friends (all were his friends) got the inside track so as to save enough, it was thought, to pay him for his time and trouble. His next trade was with David Hammond of Reading, increasing the compensation one or two thousand dollars each time. All for awhile was placid as a silver lake, but by and by the waters were disturbed and the waves ran high, but Mr. Hammond managed his bark so as not to get swamped. In one of the gales he said: "Anything you want, yes, rum enough, if you want it, to swim in." He suffered with cancer in his last years, one side of his face being almost gone. He died under Mr. Hammond's care, which was excellent. Mrs. Rice survived him and Mr. Hammond a number of years and died under the care of Mrs. Hammond, who worn by toil and care, lived less than a year, I think, after the fulfillment of the contract."

That Scotch settlement in the neighborhood of the North side of Fletcher hill is suggestive of much interest. Wm. Mc Clay settled where Julius Gramling lives, near by were Stephen his son, John Fisher, a son-in-law, Robt. Hill and some of the numerous Mack family. There was a Craigue family intermarried with the McClays, about whom, nothing definite has come to light. These old Scots loved to joke each other, and the one who could say first, "You may be an honest man but you never paid Jennie Hammond her wages for teaching," reached the height of humor. This was done with a good Scotch burr, which was a nice throaty growl.

This chapter should contain a few words about Mrs. Willard and Mrs. Storrs for they belonged to the South Parish, though their married lives were spent elsewhere.

They were frequent visitors at the home of their sister Mrs. Mary Ann Kendall. I remember Mrs. Storrs with her shining dark eyes, her joyous laugh, and her beautiful contralto voice. Even when eighty years of age she sang beautifully. Her husband pioneered in Nebraska, settling where Omaha now is, building the first store and helping the first preachers who came there. Mrs. Storrs and her children followed him, going by boats and stage coaches, meeting with serious accidents on the long journey. Her graphic recital of those experiences, fill one's memory with incidents far surpassing the usual modern novel. That beautiful Abba Willard was as delicate as a bit of choice china. The sisters were at the Kendall home, when relatives were expected from the West. Mrs. Willard had dressed herself in trailing robes, a lovely lace shawl was draped over her head and shoulders, flowers and plumes and bright ribbons added to the gayety of the costume. She planned to sit on an Indian blanket spread on the ground and as a Princess of a Royal house of America's first families, the Indians, these relatives were to be welcomed. Her beauty, grace and choice playfulness are indelible memories.

Mrs. Abba French Willard, sister of Mrs. Larned Kendall lived for some years at Houghton, Michigan. On the death of Mrs. Kendall, two nieces, one, Mrs. Willard's daughter, Mrs. Rees, the other, the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth French Storrs of Omaha, Neb. Mrs. Bowen, came to South Woodstock and received various things which Mrs. Kendall had willed them. Mrs. Rees received the little painting of the early pond. I wrote the family about it and Mr. Rees sent it to me, which has made possible its reproduction in this book.

Stephen Smith of Lyme, Connecticut, came to Woodstock in the spring of 1782 and bought a lot in No. 6 of the Apthorp tract. He erected the side walls of a crude log cabin, and then returned to Connecticut for his family. His wife was Irene Ransom, a sister of Deacon Elisha Ransom who settled in the South Parish that same year and being a Baptist preacher, he proclaimed his doctrine all around the neighborhood. It took this Smith family with their five children, thirteen days to make the trip. They had a yoke of oxen, a horse and cart, the oldest boy walked most of the way. Wife and children were appalled by the wilderness and desolation of this new abode. Tall grass appeared where the floor should have been and the horse had its first supper, eating that grass. In the center of this enclosure was the stump of a tree which the father said would serve as a light stand. The next morning distant neighbors came, put on a roof of bark, and laid a floor of split bass logs. Three large flat stones made a hearth for the fire and the smoke went where it listed. This is the only description I have found of a South Parish cabin.

Three boys of this family became preachers and fed in various theological pastures, two of them finally turned to curing physical ailments instead of spiritual. Son Elias taught school in the South Village and on Slayton hill though his education was most limited. He wrote a book with the title, "The Life, Conversion, Preaching, Travels and Sufferings of Elias Smith, written by Himself. Boston, Ms. Sold by the Author, at No 140 Hanover St., Boston and by the Booksellers in various parts of the United States, 1840. Printed by B. True, 19 Water St."

A picture of Elias graces the page opposite the title, with this statement appearing below it. "Elias Smith, Minister of the New Testament and Botanic Physician, born June 17th 1769."

Mary Grace Canfield

A BRIEF SKETCH OF M. G. CANFIELD

Mrs. Canfield was born on the Connecticut Western Reserve, that famous section of the Northwest Territory. Her people pioneered here. She graduated from what in these later years is the Municipal University of Akron,

with the degree of A.B., having majored in the classics. She is a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She taught for a few years in Kent, Ohio, a town which some of her ancestors first settled. She early identified herself with causes which needed help. She spent two years doing field work for the women of her church. She served several years on the Official Board of the Young People's Society of her church and helped to edit their weekly paper. She married a Universalist minister and became the mother of children. She found time to campaign in several states for Woman Suffrage and since the vote was won, has been identified with the League of Women Voters. She is deeply interested in history and has contributed, to the local papers, many historical articles. She has dug up the history of the two Universalist Churches in Woodstock. One of them dates back to 1786.

She has published a book on Lafayette's tour in Vermont, and all through the busy years as a minister's wife, she has found time to do much public speaking. These talks have dwelt with Emerson and His Philosophy, Ruskin, The Social Reformer, The Federal Constitutional Period, History of Our English Surnames and of course The Cause of Woman and Her Legal Status, and that other unpopular reform of Temperance and the Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic. She identifies herself with unpopular causes and struggling minorities. The blood of some Quaker ancestors flows in her veins which gives her courage and deep conviction.

Stone Bridge over the Kedron

KEDRON ALONE

by Ann Batchelder

Kedron alone, of all the streams
  That I have loved, that I have known,
Mingles its song with all my dreams,
  Deep in my heart—Kedron alone.

Kedron alone can make me hear
  Voices long silent, overgrown
With sound, as leaves at the falling year
  Make me remember—Kedron alone.

Kedron alone flows through my days,
  And the homesick heart is less my own,
For the secret, sun-accepted ways
  Of the Brook Kedron—Kedron alone.

CHAPTER XIV

A Final Word

I MADE A TOUR of several South Woodstock houses to see if any hand carved mantels were in existence and any nice wood-work. The old central chimneys are gone and with them went most of the fireplaces and mantels. Several of these houses had end fireplaces and nearly all of these still have the mantels. Some of them are quite lovely. One house has deep window seats in the parlor, these with the excellent mantel, make the room very attractive. Another parlor has beautiful beading around the window and the door casings, with simple but very good panellings beneath the windows. This room originally had been stenciled but it is all papered now. A nice bit of stenciling adorns the stairway in one of the houses. The arches above the windows of the brick houses are interesting and so are the solid shutters. Most of the brick houses have the brick laid in running bond but some of them are not true running bond. One house has its brick laid in Flemish bond which appeals to me. I think it the most beautiful and then it creates a wall of strength and durability.

There are several handsome doorways in the Village with their fanlights and carvings. Alas! So many changes have taken place in some of the houses that all semblance of what they once were, has been wiped out. But it is

interesting that two of the houses built by members of that innumerable Cottle family, should still stand. The houses erected by the ones who settled Cottletown are all gone, but Jabez and Warren built for permanency, they built with taste, with a fine feeling for beauty of line and decoration. The Giles house and the Beauregard house tell much about those two pioneers, Jabez and Warren Cottle, active, energetic men.

A few interesting facts, briefly told, must be given in regard to the service of these men for their town and state, and their financial standing.

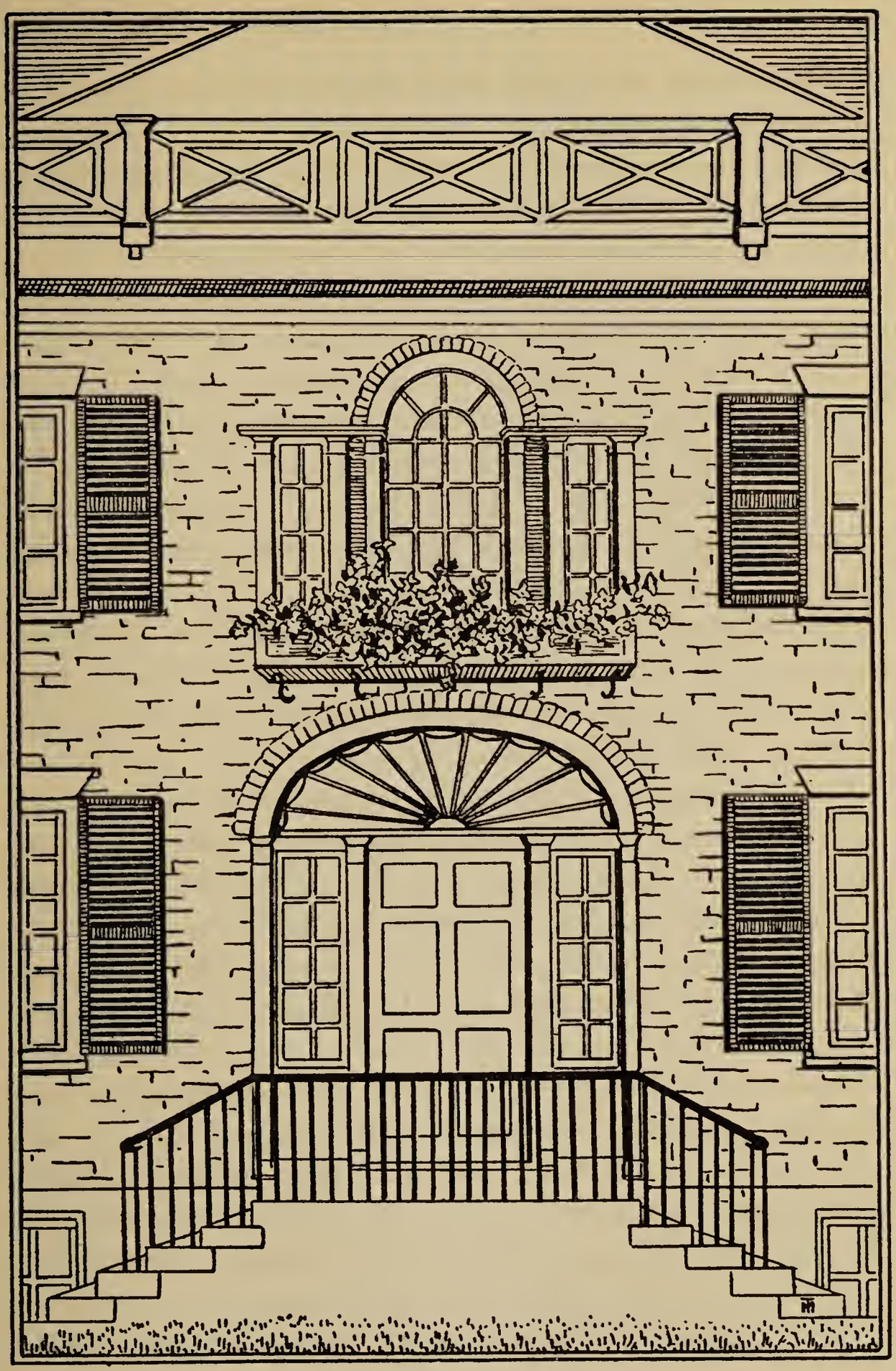
The Woodstock Grand List for 1787 is a revealing document. Our pioneers living in log cabins with no conveniences and no comforts, such as are necessities in these times, were by no means a poverty stricken group. The property is listed in pounds and shillings. The most affluent persons in the whole town were six men in the North Parish, beginning with Benjamin Burtch with 117 pounds; Captain Israel Richardson and son Lysander held their property jointly; then came son Israel, Jr., and of course Benjamin Emmons belonged to this thrifty group.

Richard Ransom heads the South Parish names with 63 pounds. Phinehas Thomas had 60 pounds. The Scot, Wm. McClay, had 53 pounds. John Ransom 50, John Sanderson 43, Thomas Ellis 42, Jonathan Farnsworth 40, Samuel Slayton 40, Warren Cottle and James Cobb each 39, Asahel Hoisington 38, Joseph Starling 37, Amasa Delano 36, Nathan Wood, Jr., 30 also Daniel Ralph and Israel Houghton. Ephraim Brewster and Sylvanus Cottle each had 31. Nathan Russ, Elijah Norton, Stephen Farnsworth and Jonathan Kingsley, Jr., each had 30 pounds.

Beginning with Ichabod Perry who had 29 pounds and going down the list to include those having 20 pounds, the names are George Lake, Wm. Benjamin, Thomas Ellis, Jr., Joseph Cottle, John Cottle, Jabez Cottle, James Perry, Ebenezer Dike, Nathan Cook, Wm. Barns, Jonathan Benjamin, Jacob Holt, Benjamin Russ, John Hammond, Joseph Wood, Stephen Smith, Wm. Wood, John Ellis, John Hammond.

The rest of the South Parish names on this Grand List represent people who had less than 20 pounds of property. The scale even goes down to only 6 pounds. Nathan Avery, Joseph Barnes, Jonas Benjamin, Ebenezer Call, Asa Call, John Call, Joseph Call, Wm. Ellis, Elijah Field, Samuel Field, James Fletcher. Estate of Billy Gray, Vespasian Hoisington, Abner Herwood (this name is sometimes spelt in the records Harwood), Jabez Hammond, Robert Hill, Philip Hammond, Ebenezer Kingsley, Asa Green, Nehemiah Mack and Nehemiah, Jr., David, Benjamin and Hezekiah Mack, Dan Niles, Stephen Paddock, Ezra Perry, Abel Paine, Samuel Pratt, Elijah Royce, Widow Desire Slayton, Thomas Root, Ezra Wood, Nathan Wood, Benjamin Wood, Seth Starlin, James Sanderson, Andrew Smith, Benjamin Sanderson, Jr.

The following South Parish men served in the State Legislature in the early years, thereby helping to form its policies. Vermont was not admitted to the Union until 1791, but some of these men were members of the State Body before that date. Warren Cottle was a member of the Legislatures of 1780, 1781, 1789. Phinehas Thomas was sent in 1783. Jabez Cottle went to the Legislatures of 1782, 1795, 1799 and 1805. Joseph Wood served in 1811. Stephen



Built by Warren Cottle

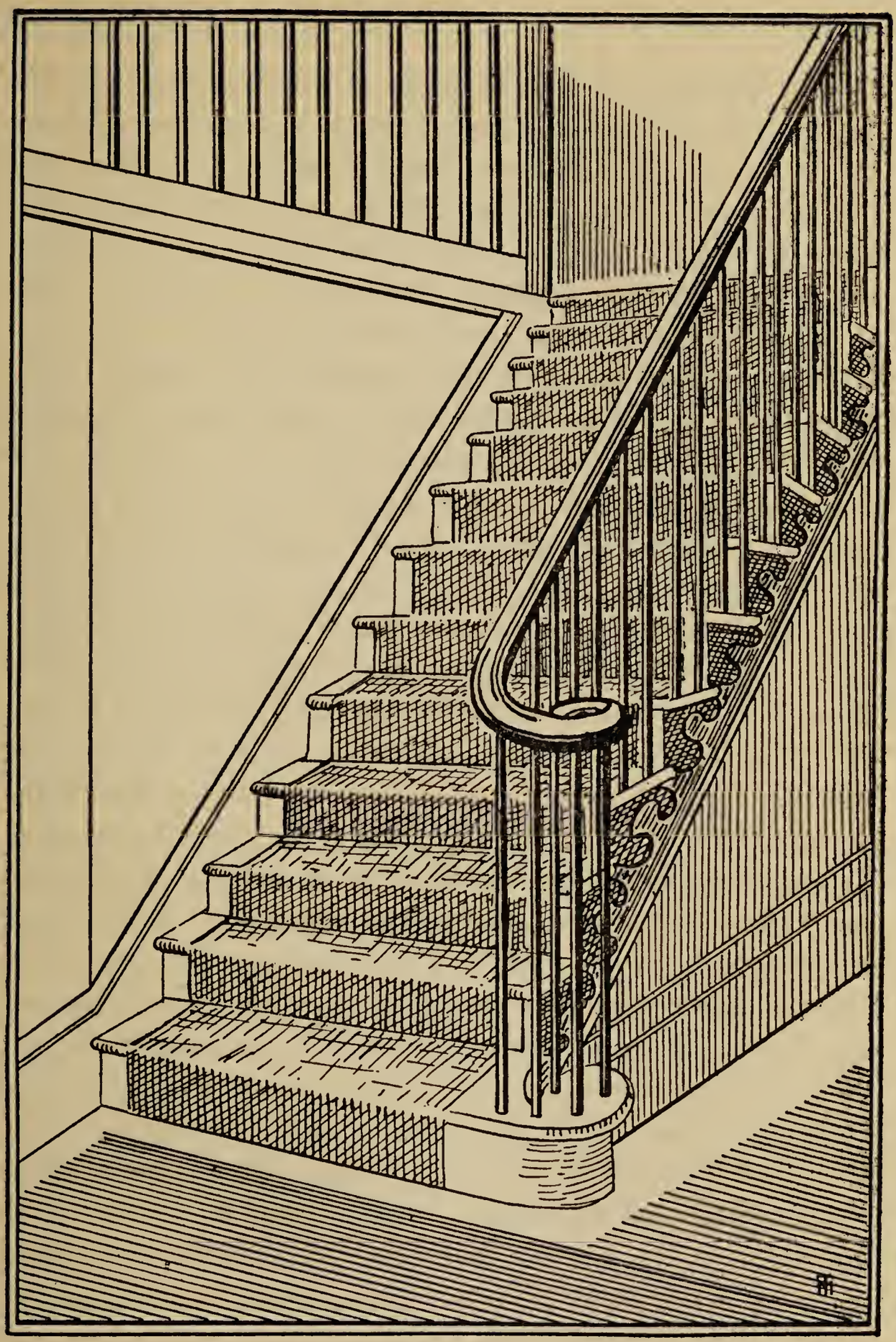
Farnsworth in 1816 and 1817. Richard Ransom in 1826 and 1828. Billy Brown in 1827 and 1831. Sylvester Edson in 1829. Jason Kendall in 1833. Many years passed before another representative was chosen from this South Parish.

There were constables even in the formative days of the town. Just what they had to do then, it is difficult to conjecture. Ebenezer Kingsley was constable in 1776. Warren Cottle in 1784. Stephen Farnsworth 1795. James Fletcher 1797 and 1798. James Slayton for the years 1820-1824. Billy Brown in 1825. Tracy Bingham 1831-4. Gaius Perkins 1840-1855, though in 1851 Galen Persons looked after the job.

The Moderators of the town meetings from the South Parish, were Jabez Cottle in 1780, '81 and '83, and again 1798, 1800 and 1801. Phinehas Thomas served in 1797. Abraham Kendall in 1810.

Up to the year 1829 from the organization of the town, all officers served without pay but at the March meeting of 1829, Jesse Williams was elected one of the Selectmen and he refused to serve unless he was paid. He did not act but the man chosen in his place charged for his time. This created a precedent for all succeeding officers to receive pay.

Beginning with the year 1779 and up to 1791, five Selectmen served each year. After that year, three were the number. The South Woodstock men who were elected to this office—and several of them served repeatedly, beginning in 1778,—were Oliver Farnsworth, Jabez Cottle, Ephraim Brewster, Phinehas Thomas, Daniel Perry, Stephen Smith, Abraham Kendall, John Ransom, Warren



A Village Stairway

Cottle, Benjamin Russ, Stephen Delano, James Fletcher, Joseph Wood, Stephen Paddock, Seth Wood, George Lake, Elisha Royce, Nathan Russ, Gaius Perkins, Jacob Kendall, James Slayton, Billy Brown, Sylvester Edson, Jason Kendall, Benjamin Bigelow, Oliver Kendall, Samuel Wood. He served in this capacity twenty-four years, and held many other positions of trust in Woodstock.

The very first town meetings were held in some of the homes but after the erection of the second court house in 1793 which stood on the south side of the Quechee on the ground just east of the middle bridge, part of the meetings were held in it. The beautiful building was burned July 4th, 1854. The picture reproduced in this book, was made from a small sketch in Conant's History of Vermont. Part of the town meetings were held in the West Meeting house, a Baptist affair which stood on the hill road beyond West Woodstock. This road is called Wyman Lane. The church was on the north side of the road, directly across from the graveyard. The picture of it, is copied from a tiny wood-cut in a booklet written by Dr. Henry Boynton a good many years ago. This church was built in 1789. Dissensions eventually wrecked it. Finally Frank Standish bought it and moved it down to the Green where it was converted into a tannery on the land where the present Frost mills are located. Here its complete destruction ensued, being consumed by fire. The sketch of the South Meeting house was made by Miss Muriel Thomas from the vivid description of the building written by Daniel Ransom. In rotation, the town meetings were held in these three buildings in the different parts of the town, and for many years they met

once each quarter. The old town records give us the facts of each assembly and the name of building in which it was held.

There is a great charm about this little Village, nestled among the hills,—the hills with their cellar holes, their mossy stone walls, laid up by sturdy pioneer hands, the old gnarled apple trees, the abandoned, grassy, indistinct roads. An atmosphere envelopes the whole region, and we who climb the heights, absorb the beauty about us, feel the grip of the historical background which is intimately connected with many of New England's first settlers, the ties which even reach across the sea to old England and some other parts of Europe. So we are not isolated but are an integral part of the great human family.

The poem which closes this South Parish tale, was written by one who loved this region, Mrs. Rebecca Hammond Laird, when she was moving from Vermont to a new home in Indiana. At that date, it was a long and toilsome journey. Rebecca was born in New Bedford, Mass., March 7, 1772, and died in Paris, Indiana, Sept. 28, 1853. She was seven years old when her parents moved to the South Parish. She was a precocious child. She was teaching school when only fourteen. She married but still taught. In 1820, with her four children she moved to Indiana. What had become of husband, I know not. She returned for a visit to Vermont in 1842. It is definitely stated that several men who became distinguished in Indiana, had been taught by her. She dedicated to her brother, the Hon. Jabez Hammond, the little volume from which the closing poem is taken. It was a most remarkable family but in these days, their name, their home

place and their achievements are unknown in this South Parish. The title of the book is "Miscellaneous Poems on Moral and Religious Subjects." "By a Lady." Published—"Woodstock: Printed by David Watson 1820," who lived for years at Woodstock Green.

ON THE AUTHOR'S REMOVAL TO THE WESTWARD

"Scenes of my youth ye once were dear"

Ere far beyond the western hills I go,
Feign would mine eyes a parting glance bestow
On scenes where once my careless childhood stray'd,
When life was new, in fancy's bloom array'd.
'Twas here, e'en here, by love of virtue warm'd,
My vows were plighted, and my friendships form'd:
Parental care here watch'd my wayward youth,
And led my footsteps in the paths of truth.
But I no more a father's voice must hear—
That faithful mentor of my tender years,
Silent and cold, wrapt in a lasting sleep,
Heeds not my sighs, while o'er his tomb I weep:
Oh sacred spot, where rests his hallow'd urn!
Silent and sad I from his ashes turn.
Now seek the shades where friendship unconfin'd
Sheds her sweet influence on my youthful mind;
How have we sat beneath yon spreading trees,
A female band, each studious, each to please;
No latent envy lurk'd amidst the groves,
But all sincerely loving and belov'd.
Fled are those hours that flew on rapture's wing,
And lost those joys of the enliv'ning spring;
But fancy fond yet still will linger here—

What tender images the scene endears!
Where'er I turn, lo! what a train appears,
The friends and guardians of my tender years.
Dear to my heart their mem'ry must remain,
While reason o'er my mind extends its reign.
Woodstock, the place where peace and love prevail,
Where health and plenty crown the hill and dale;
No more my feet shall wander in thy shades,
Nor with the muses haunt thy airy glades;
Virtue nor wisdom be no more my theme,
Where Waterqueechee winds his pleasant stream;
Yet shall that stream though far from thence I stray,
Live in my song, and murmur through the lay.
Once more adieu, thou land to me so dear.
Long mayst thou flourish, year succeeding year.

VALE

THE VALLEY OF THE KEDRON

BY

Mary Grace Canfield

Indexed by Wilfred C. Parker

Great-great grandson

of

Eleazer Parker
1753-1826

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Bridgewater
West
Plymouth
Scale of Miles ½ mile to the inch
School Lot 100 acres
First Settled Ministers Lot
800 acres
Glebe Lot 300 acres
Propagation Lot 300 acres
B. Smith
S. Bunk
L. Jones
2030
1800
1730
South

By
Elizabeth Kinerton
S. Woodstock Vt.